

Hafa Adai!

Family seeks help to be reunited after tragedy. **PAGE 2**
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, together with Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, yesterday welcomed the officers and members of the Pacific Asia Travel Association-Micronesia Chapter, who are meeting on Saipan this week for the first Tri-Annual Meeting (2024). The meeting is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.



CNMI hosts 1st post-COVID PATA Micronesia conference

Lt. Gov. David Apatang, center, poses for a photo with Pacific Asia Travel Association-Micronesia Chapter representatives during the chapter's conference yesterday.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI is hosting the first Pacific Asia Travel Association-Micronesia Chapter conference it has had in years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting last Wednesday, the CNMI hosted the PATA Micronesia Chapter's

Tri-Annual Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan with the goal of strengthening regional tourism industry partnerships and collaborations. The meeting will end today.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang joined the chapter yesterday in its general membership

See PATA on Page 4

Biden wins the NMI Democratic Primary

Ninety-nine voters across Rota, Tinian, and Saipan participated in the NMI Democratic Party's first ever presidential primary. From March 5-12, Democrats and other supporters



Biden

visited polling sites on all three islands to cast their votes.

President Joe Biden received 93 votes, Jason Palmer received four votes, and Marianne Williamson received two votes. Rep. Dean Phillips did not receive any votes in the primary. Palmer picked up one vote

See BIDEN on Page 4

Palacios named witness in forgery case vs. parole chief

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has been named as one of the prosecution's witnesses in the case against chief parole officer Nick Masga Reyes, Kingman who has been ensnared in a forgery case in Superior Court.

Last Wednesday, assistant attorney general James

Kingman filed his witness list in the forgery case against Reyes in preparation for the upcoming trial, which is set for April 22.

According to Kingman's official witness list, Palacios will be the first witness among four others who are also expected to testify: Chris Guerrero, Lucinda Selepeo, investigator Ikluk

See FORGERY on Page 4



Kilili urges Buttigieg to act on previous request to lift cap on flights between China, territories

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has urged U.S. Department of Transportation

Secretary Pete Buttigieg to act on his previous request to exempt the CNMI from DOT's order that caps the number of scheduled passenger flights between China and the U.S. and its territories.

DOT's Part 213 Order 2023-6-1 limits the number of passenger flights from China to the entire United States to a little over 24 flights a month.

Sablan said in his recent letter to

Buttigieg that scheduled Chinese flights to the Marianas should already be exempt from any limitations on the number of flights between the People's Republic of China and the United States, pursuant to Annex 6 of the U.S.-China Civil Air Transport Agreement.

Annex 6 already provides that

"airlines of the People's Republic of China may provide unlimited

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

CK Smoke House, that's where it's at. That's the answer to Wendy's age-old question where's the beef as the Chalan Kanoa restaurant unveiled its newest meat menu.

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WORLD

President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Russia is ready to use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty or independence is threatened.

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OFFBEAT

A Nebraska woman allegedly found a lucrative quirk at a gas station pump—double-swipe the rewards card and get free gas!

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Local

Family seeks help to be reunited after tragedy

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

After a near-fatal heart attack that left Jesse Rivera unable to care for himself or his family, his wife, Sharolyn, is asking for financial assistance that would help them reunite with their daughters after they were torn apart last year.

Rivera, who is a father of four, suffered a heart attack while playing basketball in 2021 at the Agape Gymnasium. He had been down on the court for several minutes before Emergency Medical Services arrived, and after



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jesse Rivera at the hospital after his heart attack in 2021. He was revived but is now unable to perform self-care tasks or walk unassisted, and does not recognize his four children and his wife of two decades.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jesse Rivera in a recent photo. After a heart attack that left him unconscious for a time, he then suffered an anoxic brain injury. This happens when the brain is without oxygen for a prolonged period of time. As a result, he cannot function at his same capacity nor be able to fully understand commands. He is unable to perform self-care tasks or walk unassisted, and does not recognize his four children and his wife of two decades.

Just 39 years old at the time, Rivera, a construction worker who moved to Saipan in 2017, could not and still cannot function at his same capacity nor be able to fully understand commands. He is unable to perform self-care tasks or walk unassisted, and does not recognize his four children and his wife of two decades.

Sharolyn and her daughters had just moved to Saipan some two years before this incident. After Jesse's heart attack, Sharolyn decided to

See FAMILY on Page 3

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FAMILY

From page 2

bring the whole family back to the Philippines in 2022 because they had no source of income after what happened. Although the situation was untenable Sharolyn continued to seek alternatives to their loss and abject poverty. She struggled to find steady work and did her best to hustle and sell products online to generate an income. After realizing that she alone would have to provide for her husband and children, she eventually returned to Saipan with her two younger daughters, a 6-year-old and a 4-year-old, last year, leaving behind her two older daughters and her husband with their family in the Philippines.

It was her best available option in order to be able to pay for Jesse's care and medical supplies and provide necessities and schooling for her older girls. The plan was that, when Sharolyn has saved enough money, she would send for them.

However, since Jesse is unable to recover and cannot work, Sharolyn is the sole



Scan to pay Sharolyn Kae Rivera
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Scan the Paypal QR code or email Paypal: shrlynalv@gmail.com to donate.

breadwinner of the family until her eldest daughter is able to work. Fortunately, the hospital bills for Jesse's time in ICU and surgery was covered by some loans Sharolyn had applied for, as well as other programs.

During their two months in the hospital, Sharolyn struck up a friendship with Arriana Pando, who was part of the medical team at CHCC that helped revive Jesse. Pando currently helps and houses Sharolyn and her two younger daughters because they can't afford to live on their own on Sharolyn's salary as a child care worker at the Smart Start Nurturing Center on Navy Hill.

The two daughters who've been left behind in the Philippines—18-year-old Julianna Rivera and 14-year-old Kasandra Rivera—desperately long to be reunited with their mother and two younger sisters. Julianna, who went to school at Marianas High School, said they've never been separated for this long before, and when they get back to Saipan, "I want to work as soon as possible so I can help with our finances and also to at least take some of the burden off my mom's back. Going back also means that I can take care of my sisters again, given that I've been taking care of them since they



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A family photo of the Rivera family before Jesse's heart attack.

were born. My mom is having a hard time managing both of them on her own.

"We only stayed [on] Saipan for three years but, staying here right now, I catch myself saying 'I wanna go home [to Saipan],' which I laugh about but I feel like I really felt at home [on] Saipan. I really enjoyed my time there.

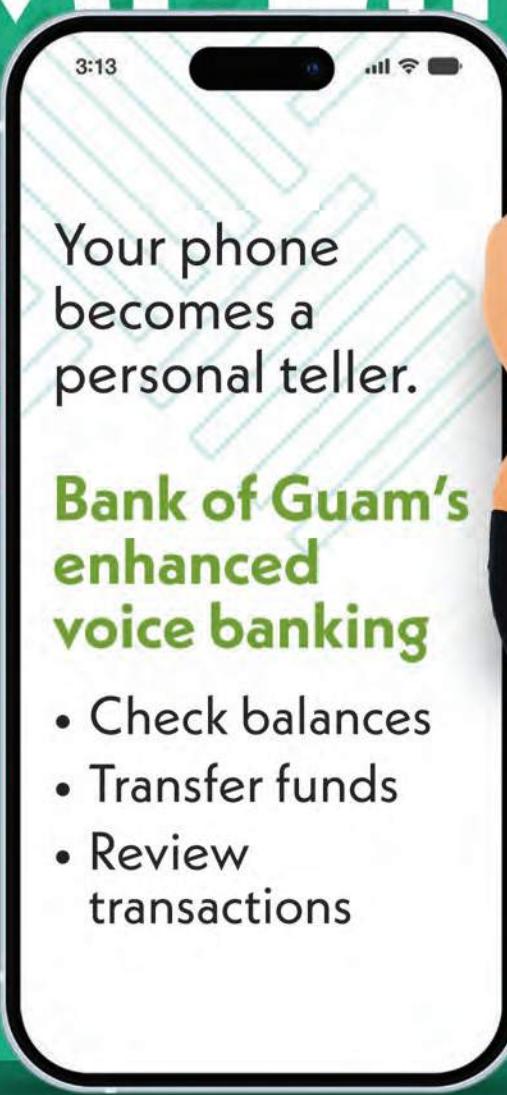
See FAMILY on Page 4

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DPS: Camacho improperly added department in its appeal vs. CSC

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety claims it was improperly joined in Sgt. Peter Raymond Camacho's petition for

judicial review of a Civil Service Commission decision.

"Petitioner has wrongfully joined DPS, an improper party, because DPS itself issued no order adjudicating his grievance. In addition, for

the reasons mentioned, DPS cannot be a proper party for petitioner's constitutional due process claim and DPS should be dropped as a party to that claim in this proceeding. The court should either dismiss

DPS from this case or remand this matter back to DPS for a proper order," DPS claims.

Earlier this year, Camacho, through his lawyers Robert Torres and Oliver Manglona, appealed CSC's decision

Villagomez seen to submit contempt statement against Atalig and others to AG for prosecution

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is expected to certify a statement of contempt against former Finance secretary David DLG. Atalig and business partners Robert Travilla and Salina Sapp and send it to Attorney General Edward Manibusan so they could be prosecuted in the Superior Court.

Villagomez said last night that he is still waiting on the House special committee report pertaining to the contempt citations against Atalig, Travilla, and Sapp. Villagomez said he checked with their legal counsel and was told that they are still working on the report.

Villagomez said he checked with their legal counsel and was told that they are still working on the report.

In his letter to Manibusan, Villagomez said the House

Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-Related Funding had found Villanueva in contempt.

Villanueva, Travilla, and Sapp were in charge of marketing the \$17-million BOOST Program. Travilla and Sapp are the vice president and president of Nonstop Corp., respectively.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PATA

From page 1

meeting that is being organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

In addressing PATA representatives from Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Japan, the Marshall Islands, and the CNMI, Palacios underscored the challenges, especially obstacles in air service, and opportunities facing all the island nations and territories.

He also stressed the need to protect and conserve island environments while growing and developing tourism industries across Micronesia.

"We want to welcome the

PATA members here to the CNMI after not having this conference in so long. We look forward to having this conference again. It's good to have this organization come here so we can see where we're at as far as tourism is concerned," said Apatang.

After hearing presentations led by tourism bureau representatives from Guam and the Marshall Islands, Apatang said it's good to see how other islands in Micronesia are working on rebuilding their tourism industries after the pandemic.

"I want to say thank you to PATA for visiting. It's always good to have this kind of conference so we can work together as one Micronesia

and, of course, as one Marianas...to encourage visitors to come visit us. Tourism deals a lot with promotion. We need to encourage more promotion and we need to go out and present ourselves. We can be smart and do what we can to promote the Commonwealth. We have a lot of places to promote here in the CNMI," he said.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said he is excited that the CNMI is hosting PATA Micronesia's first conference since the pandemic. "We are very excited to welcome our neighbours from Micronesia to the Marianas," he said.

When asked what his main takeaway was, Concepcion said it's that everyone across

Micronesia is struggling to rebuild their tourism industries.

"We are all facing similar challenges. None of us are at pre-COVID levels in terms of visitor arrivals. Guam is also down 40%, so we all face the same challenges in terms of bringing the numbers back up from pre-COVID levels," he said.

The mission of PATA-Micronesia Chapter is to assist in the development of the regional tourism industry with strategies that are environmentally sensitive, respect Micronesian cultures, adhere to high operational standards and provide opportunities for education, training and gainful employment among Micronesian residents.

FORGERY

From page 1

Masayos, and assistant attorney general Rebecca Wiggins.

Kingman noted in his witness list that the prosecution may or may not call all of the named witnesses and reserves the right to amend the list to add any other person who possesses knowledge of the case.

Meanwhile, Reyes' counsel filed a motion last Wednesday asking the court to vacate the jury trial set for April 22 and

to instead set a bench trial for the same date.

A bench trial essentially gives the judge presiding over the trial the discretion to issue a verdict instead of a jury composed of members of the community.

"Defendant is waiving his right to a jury trial and request this [court] to set this matter for a bench trial on April 22, 2024," the motion states.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho has set a hearing for the motion next week, March 20.

Kingman filed last month two separate cases against Reyes: one count of misconduct in public office and four counts of forgery.

Reyes allegedly forged and altered, on or about Dec. 20, 2023, the terms of employment of a person from 30 days to one year. This offense is punishable by imprisonment of not more than five years.

Also, Reyes and co-defendant Chuilian Fu are charged with one count of conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office,

one count of conspiracy to commit theft by deception, and two counts of theft by deception in relation to the authorization of funds for the construction of a patio.

In this case, Reyes and Fu allegedly agreed last Oct. 4, 2022, to build a patio at the Parole Office that was to be built by a tailoring company owned by Fu, F&S Corp., in the amount of \$9,997.80. In reality though, the patio was allegedly built using unpaid labor performed by parolees under the direction of Reyes.

BIDEN

From page 1

on Saipan and three on Rota, while Williamson received two votes on Saipan.

Because Biden emerged victorious, he was awarded all six pledged delegates. In fact, all six delegates had already pledged for Biden. They are Nola Kileleman Hix, Shawna Evangelista Indalecio, Joan Flores Reyes, Leila Fleming

Staffler, Angelo Villagomez, and Stephen Woodruff.

The 2024 Democratic National Convention will take place from Aug. 19 to 22, 2024, at the United Center, in Chicago, Illinois. The national convention will nominate the Democratic Party's candidates for President and Vice President of the United States of America.

The NMI Democratic Party will have 11 delegates at the convention: five automatic

delegates composed of party leaders and elected officials and six delegates who were elected in the primary. Members of the NMI delegation will also serve on the standing committees of the 2024 Democratic National Convention. These are the Credentials, Platform, and Rules Committees.

The Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas extends its sincerest gratitude to the four presidential candidates who vied for votes in the primary

and the six delegates who put their names forward for consideration. And it thanked its community partners, vendors, and poll workers for making the primary a success. Finally, the party thanks the voters who came out and made their voices heard in the Democratic Party's presidential primary.

For more information and the latest updates follow @nmidems on Facebook, and or visit the website at www.nmidems.org. (PR)

that denied the grievances he filed against DPS, alleging that the commission violated his rights, as well as the Open Government Act. In this appeal, Camacho named DPS as a party, but DPS is now claiming the department was improperly joined in this administrative appeal.

DPS, through assistant attorney general Charles P. Reyes Jr., has filed a motion asking that the department either be removed as a party, or the matter be remanded back to DPS for acting DPS com-

missioner Anthony Macarnas to rule on.

"Respondent DPS...requests that this court drop it as a named respondent... because Camacho improperly joined it in this administrative appeal. Alternatively, DPS moves the court to remand this matter back to DPS for a proper order issued by the acting DPS commissioner," states the motion.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

KILILI

From page 1

scheduled air service between the People's Republic of China and Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands."

Annex 6 further provides that "air services provided... shall not be subject to limitations as to the number of designations or frequencies."

However, Sablan said, DOT's action to limit the number of Chinese carriers flying to U.S. destinations, taken in response to China's COVID-19 restrictions, included scheduled flights to the Marianas and has not been lifted since.

Now that DOT is increasing capacity by adding more flights between the U.S. and China, the Annex 6 exemption for the Marianas should be reinstated, he said.

Sablan said the CNMI remains in a deep state of recovery following the pandemic, which in combination with

recent historic natural disasters, has crippled the Commonwealth's infrastructure and economy.

He said members of the community remain concerned that the ailing economy will continue to languish and may not recover until access to Chinese tourism is regained.

"This could only happen when direct scheduled flights from China finally resume, as allowed under the provisions of Annex 6," said the delegate as he urged Buttigieg to resolve the matter promptly.

Last Jan. 24, Sablan wrote Buttigieg to support the Commonwealth Ports Authority's application for an exemption from the DOT's Part 213 Order that restricts the number of scheduled passenger flights between China and the U.S.

Chinese tourists reportedly accounted for 38% of all visitors to the CNMI prior to the pandemic and their spending contributed significantly to the economy.

FAMILY

From page 3

I met a lot of amazing people who taught me a lot of different things, and whom I even looked at as an extension of my family," she said.

She recounts that it took months for her to understand what has happened to her father and their family. "For a few months, it still hasn't [sunk] into me how it's my dad in the hospital, that this is actually real. My dad stayed in the ICU for a couple of weeks and my mom stayed with him. I was in charge of the house and my sisters.

"After those couple of weeks, my dad got out of the ICU and into a normal room. I would get my sisters ready for school, drop them off, and then go to my school. After school, I would drive to the hospital and switch with my mom so she can rest.

"From that moment until today, I still can't believe how much things have changed in just a night. I don't think about it often because it physically hurts to think about. I miss my dad so much and there's nothing I want more than to

be a whole family again...," said Julianna.

Sharolyn thanks everyone who's helped her and her family so far and hopes people who read their story are able to help in any way they can.

Pando, who's been helping Sharolyn and her family since they've struck up a friendship, said that Sharolyn's immediate goal is "to reunite with her two daughters that she had to leave behind so that she can raise all her daughters together and give them the support they need from their mother. They have essentially lost their father; they need their mother. In addition, Sharolyn must secure housing [on] Saipan so that she can keep her family together. I will not be able to fit all the girls in my 1-bedroom apartment and my hospital contract may not be continued."

Sharolyn is asking for financial assistance for the cost of reuniting them here on Saipan. The cost of travel, housing, transportation, elementary educational expenses, food, and medical expenses to reunite them is upwards of \$10,000. Donations of any amount would help. Paypal shrylnalv@gmail.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 2:30PM at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6706648315> or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of February 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

- 1) CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2023-102
Project: CONSTRUCTION OF 42 UNITS HOUSING PROJECT
Applicant: MR. TING JIANG TANG DBA CANAAN REALTY, LLC.
The Canaan Realty, LLC is proposing to construct 43 Units Housing Rentals. The development includes office units, recreational rooms, community center, onsite laundry facility, mom and pop store, security house and fence. The project is situated on leased private lands identified as Lot Nos. 361-5, 361-R4, 361-6, TR 2254-3, TR 22553 and TR 22554-2NEW in As Lito, Saipan.
a. Agencies' Discussions
b. Agencies' Determination - Final Permit Decision
- 2) CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2024-024
Project: ROUTE 310 (TAPOCHAO RD.) AND ROUTE 38 (GALAIKI) IMPROVEMENTS
Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
The Department of Public Works is proposing to commence the road construction project for Route 310 (Tapochao Road) and Route 38 (Chalan Galaiki/Navy Hill Road). Improvements for Route 310 stretches about 2.1 miles while Route 38 measures about 0.25 miles.
a. Agencies' Discussions
b. Agencies' Determination - Final Permit Decision
- 3) CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2024-025
Project: ROUTE 317 (GUALO RAI ROAD) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
The Department of Public Works is proposing to commence the road construction project of Route 317, also known as the Gualo Rai Road. Route 317 is an existing registered Right-of-Way and begins at the intersection of Route 33 (South Garapan Beach Road) and Route 317 to Historia Place in Gualo Rai, Saipan. The length of this project is about 0.59 miles.
a. Agencies' Discussions
b. Agencies' Determination - Final Permit Decision

- IV. OTHER MATTERS
- V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM



MOBILE CLINIC SCHEDULE

for March 2024

Adult Health Check

Mar 8th
& 15th

- Mar. 8 at NAP Office, As Lito from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
- Mar. 15 at Kagman Community Center, Kagman from 8:00AM - 11:30AM

Clinical check with provider includes routine wellness exam, physical screening for height and weight, and/or consultation for other concerns. Other community health services: blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals.

Child Health Check

Mar 6th
& 22nd

- Mar. 6 at Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Susupe from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
- Mar. 22 at Lucky De Market, Dandan from 1:00PM - 4:30PM

For children 0-17 years old. Clinical check with provider includes developmental behavioral assessment, measurement and growth, other health screening, and/or consultation for other concerns.

Women Health Check

Mar 4th
& 18th

- Mar. 4 at WIC Office, Navy Hill from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
- Mar. 18 at Mount Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa from 8:00AM - 11:30AM

Recommended for women who haven't seen a provider in over a year for clinical services: Pap Smears, breast exams, prenatal care, postpartum care, and/or contraceptive counseling and methods



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www.chcc.health



Autism Awareness fundraiser set for tonight



By CHRYSTAL MARINO

chrystral_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Unique Pieces in Different Colors CNMI '23 is inviting members of the community to join them for their Bingo Autism Awareness fundraiser tonight, March 15, at the Saipan Vegas in Chalan Kiya.

The event is billed as a night of fun, games, and prizes—all for a great cause. The fundraiser, which will kick off at 5pm, will be hosted on the second floor of Saipan Vegas.

Tickets are priced at \$40 and will be available for purchase at the door. Buyers will also have the option to buy two and get one free.

In addition to the main bingo games, attendees can

look forward to mini-games throughout the evening, adding an extra layer of excitement to the event, and even more opportunities to win prizes and contribute to the fundraiser's success.

Food and drinks will also be available for purchase at the venue's restaurant.

The group extends a warm invite to those in the community to join them tonight.

For those interested in learning more about the event or purchasing tickets, contact the peer support group: April at (670) 287-2725, Mako at (670) 785-6648, or Marie (670) 284-1043. They are available to provide further details and assist with any inquiries regarding the fundraiser.



CCA Special Membership Meeting Announcement

Partners and friends of the Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) are welcome to attend a Special Membership Meeting, to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 18th, 2024 in the CCA Conference Room, Marina Heights I, Suite 104, Puerto Rico, Saipan.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) ACCOUNTANT

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Provides financial analysis and information as per accounting data and research. Prepare financial reports, oversee payroll and accounts payable and receivable, and ensure all balances are accurate for tax and legal purposes. Issue invoices and bills and sent them to customers through e-mail. Responsible for ensuring that customer invoices are accurate and sent out in a timely manner, reconciling accounts receivable, and managing payments. Update accounting records with new payments, balances, customer information and other related tasks. Maintains customer confidence and protects operations by keeping financial information confidential. Summarizes current financial status by collecting information, preparing balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other reports. Prepare up-to-date information and documentation for Revenues and Taxes. Responsible for comparing the company's general ledger against bank statements. Run company errands related to and/or bank transactions

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Diploma/GED
- Bachelor's degree Major in Accounting or related degree.
- 12 months of accounting-related experience Technology skills using accounting systems and software specifically Quickbooks. PRE-SCREENING TEST IS REQUIRED (LIKE TRADE TEST AND/OR EMPLOYMENT EXAM)

WORKING CONDITIONS: Full Time (40 hours per week)

LOCATION: SNT CORPORATION, Reyes Commercial Building Unit 101 INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS, PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME WITH A LIST OF REFERENCES, PHOTOCOPY OF A VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD & UPDATED POLICE CLEARANCE TO:

TERESA LEE, PRESIDENT
SNT CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 506695
SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands
96950 United States
PHONE NUMBER: 670-989-1306
OTHER NUMBER: 671-987-1306
E-MAIL: shlasiapacific@outlook.com



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RESERVATION REQUIRED : 670-237-5170

 PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN



**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION****REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-013****PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW GENSET
UNITS FOR SAIPAN, POWER PLANT NO.4**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Contractors or Vendors for the purchase and installation of new gensets for Power Plant No.4 located on the island of Saipan. The purchase and installation of the new gensets with approximately 6MW of total new output will improve CUC current power generation capacity needed to sustain critical electrical services to the community of Saipan.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package will be emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by March 8, 2024 to be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 22, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-24-013, Purchase and Installation of New Genset Units for Saipan Power Plant No.4"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 A.M. (CHST) on March 19, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (CHST) on February 27, 2024**, to Manny Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC's Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Gourmet galore at Taste of Marianas Int'l Food Festival

Twenty-eight booths await the hungry and thirsty at the 25th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival set for every Saturday in May 2024, at American Memorial Park on Saipan, the Marianas.

Taste of the Marianas is a gourmet's delight, offering some of the destination's best cuisine and entertainment. The festival will feature affordable dishes from local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, food eating competitions, cooking contests, arts and crafts sales, and more. Entry is free.

This year's eateries will include 38 Mitsubachi, Smokeout by Apu, Cup Bab Korean Restaurant, Benki, Yaya's Baked Goods, CK Smokehouse and Salad, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Fork and Spoon, Great Harvest, Herman's Modern Bakery, Lanlan's Tea House, Island Grindz, Java Joe's, Kanto 10, Kinpachi, Loco & Taco, Tupu Cane Juice, New Matty's BBQ, Oh My Grill, Surf Club, T-Bar, The Hut, Vi-Lyn's BBQ, Saipan World Resort, Ever Trust 123 Food, MARPAC, Napu Brewing, and Westco.

The Taste of the Marianas is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and is a highlight of May Tourism Month.

"Our mouths are already watering just looking at the list of participants in this year's



MVA/

An employee of Surf Club Saipan serves a classic hot plate of rice, corn on the cob, and ribs at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on June 17, 2023, on Saipan.

May 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2024 at American Memorial Park."

Festival Gold Sponsor is Bridge Capital LLC and Silver Sponsors are Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and Lanlan Tea House.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarians.com or (670) 664-3200. (PR)

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
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Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 24-062

Opening Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024
Closing Date: Monday, March 18, 2024

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	Rota Administration
LOCATION:	Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Rota Resident Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Updates and verifies customer account or work order information; enters and balances payment data; prepares timekeeping records; may work in the field obtaining and entering customer utility meter information, and replacing or disconnecting utility meters and services.
- Receives customer payments; balances and records cash and other payment receipts; verifies receipts against payment system data; and prepares deposits.
- Monitors and updates customer account information; researches account discrepancies or unusual meter readings; calculates payment information for past-due accounts, new installations and security deposits; reports research findings; and/or follows up on service or work order status.
- Greets customers or receives calls; responds to customer inquiries such as account balance information, payment due dates, minimum payment amounts due or general information inquiries; refers customers to appropriate resources.
- Copies and scans documents; maintains and organizes files, records, reports and accounting transaction documentation.
- Updates and maintains spreadsheet reports; prepares fiscal transaction reports or other work activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education Program.

Knowledge of: Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

Skills in: Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

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Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2024

Opening date: March 04, 2024 Closing date: March 22, 2024

Location: SAIPAN**SALARY**

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr to \$15.85/hr)
UNGRADED
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to 12.42/hr)
PL 19/1 to 19/12 (\$17.48/hr to \$29.90/hr)
PL 9/1 to 9/12 (\$10.73/hr to \$18.35/hr)
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
Minimum: \$36,356.89/annum
Maximum: \$62,182.63/annum

Location: TINIAN**SALARY**

PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr to \$13.04/hr)

Location: ROTA**SALARY**

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr to \$13.04/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 22, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

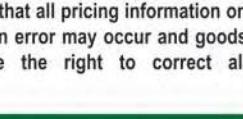
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FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, MARCH 15 TO 17, 2024

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Making smart budget choices: Biden plan is rooted in common sense

With a \$7.3 trillion budget plan for fiscal year 2025, President Joe Biden laid out priorities that include a heavy emphasis on anti-poverty and quality of life while taking aim at Donald Trump's efforts to roll back taxes on the rich.

Coming after a forceful State of the Union address in which the longtime senator and vice president took a step back from his tendency towards reflexive bipartisanship to bash the radicalism of the Trump-captured GOP, it's refreshing to see a continued embrace of expansive social policy, backed by a commitment to progressive taxation.

That the GOP-controlled House—putatively led by Speaker Mike Johnson, who Trump keeps on a short leash—will certainly kill any chance of bringing this vision to fruition should be no impediment to putting it front and center.

Let the Republicans return to their districts and explain to their constituents why they stand united in opposition to ameliorating the skyrocketing cost of child care and instituting the paid family leave mandates that all but a handful of countries worldwide have—both significant drivers of people who want to have kids delaying the decision or changing their minds altogether.

Force them to explain what's so bad about tax breaks for would-be homebuyers struggling with housing costs, and why reversing the sweetheart deals billion-dollar corporations and the wealthiest Americans got from Trump's 2017 tax cuts is such an objectionable principle that it trumps having these things.

Already, Biden's emphasis on an expanded enforcement capacity for the IRS has yielded significant results. It only makes sense that, with this increased ability to go after tax cheats, we can more forcefully ask the wealthy to pay their fair share so that all Americans can benefit from increases in productivity.

Inevitably, this approach will be framed in some corners as irresponsible spending, and certainly any policy of this magnitude must be studied and tweaked and optimized for greatest return. But there's been little more irresponsible than the massive cuts on the biggest companies and wealthiest individuals, which have allowed the richest 1% of U.S. earners to soar past the entirety of the middle class in recent years and ballooned the federal deficit that Republicans otherwise pretend to care about.

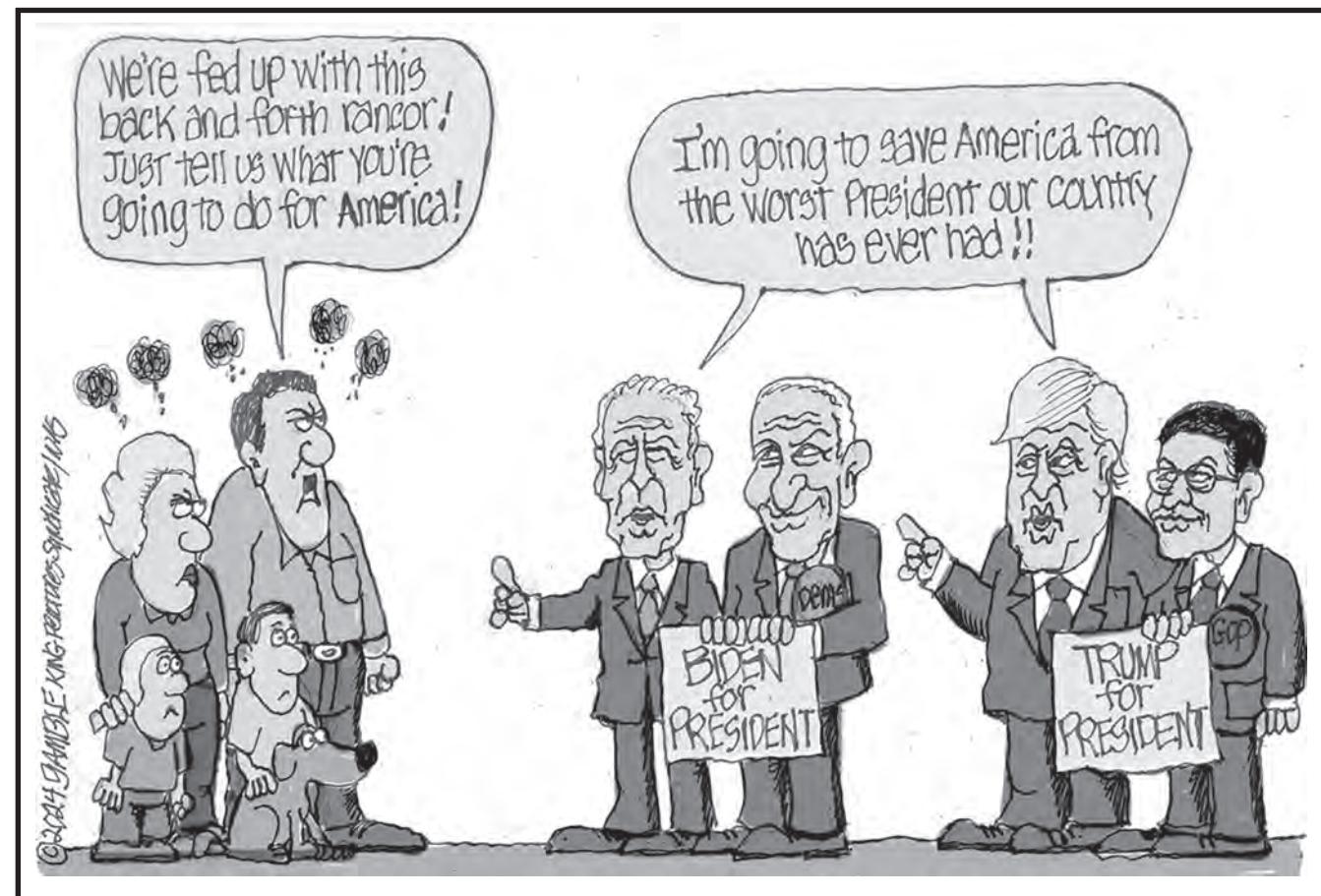
Biden's efforts, meanwhile, could well reduce the deficit substantially.

More importantly, it could set the middle class on solid footing at a moment where low unemployment and wage gains—the result of sound economic stewardship over the last couple of years—have been to some extent offset by the expiration of pandemic-era safety net expansions.

We know that programs like expanded child tax credits work because we were forced to conduct an impromptu experiment during the COVID years. The vision of a permanent adaptation of parts of this system is electorally potent and just plain good policy.

It should come in tandem with efforts to address some underlying practical problems like a dearth of affordable housing and available child care options. Financial solutions alone can't and

See MAKING on Page 11



IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

A Battle of Saipan veteran's son pilgrimage

Back in time

BAlan Sonntag's father participated in the Battle of Saipan. His wife Peggy's father stormed Utah Beach (Normandy, France) on D-Day. The couple recently visited Saipan on a pilgrimage to have a virtual "Then & Now Father & Child Reunion" with Alan's father. I had the honor and pleasure of making that wish come true.

Walt: Tell us who you are and what brings the two of you to Saipan?

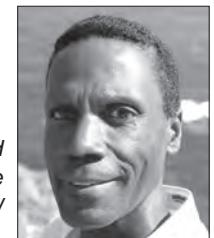
Alan: My name is Alan Sonntag, currently residing outside of Austin, Texas. My wife, Peggy, and I—many years ago—decided that it was important for us to honor our fathers by visiting the sites where they were stationed during World War II. My dad spent time here on Saipan, and my wife's dad landed on Utah Beach during D-Day. It's just one of those important things we really wanted to do to honor our parents.

Walt: What have you done so far?

Alan: Well, we came to Saipan about three days ago. We've been on a tour with [you]—one day of Saipan, and pretty much another full day of Tinian—where we got to see many of the historic sites we've read about as youngsters and that we've heard about to some extent from our parents.

By WALT GOODRIDGE
Special to Saipan Tribune

Walt F.J. Goodridge, originally from the island of Jamaica, is a local author who hosts the DiscoverSaipan YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@discoversaipan>



Walt: Your father took quite a few photos here on Saipan in 1944, and you brought those with you. What was your plan?

Alan: Yes, my dad had a number of World War II memorabilia and quite a few photos of him and his buddies and also of the surrounding area. I tried to pick out about 30 photos where landmarks could be identified and we were fortunate enough to find several spots where my dad took a picture or, quite frankly, exactly where he stood in a couple of cases. We've learned about other sites that were here 80 years ago but do not exist today. So

See BATTLE on Page 11



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

BATTLE

From page 10

the pictures were very useful. They helped us and helped me, quite honestly, remember my dad.

Walt: For me it was a lot of fun as well. People here are really interested to experience Saipan through the eyes of the veterans, visitors and former residents. So seeing photographs from 1944 and being able to compare them with what the island looks like now was really fascinating. So I thank you for that.

'My one regret'

Alan: Well I'm glad you enjoyed it, too, and your help was valuable in determining where we should look to find those special spots, and I think we accomplished that in the two days we've been here. My dad has been gone about 21 years, and my one regret is that we weren't able to do this with him 25 years or so ago. However, we were able to finally do it in the last week and for that we're very thankful we had the opportunity.

Walt: Tell us a little bit about your dad.

Alan: His name is Herman Sonntag, and he was with the Army Air Force [The Air Force was part of the United States Army Signal Corps until 1947]. I'm quite certain he came to the island shortly after the island was captured by the Americans. He was an administrative person. I think he was a staff sergeant based on the pictures I've seen of him, and my guess is he was probably bivouacked down where the current airfield is, along with thousands of Marines, airmen and soldiers.

'Following in his footsteps'

Walt: You also have your own military connection, correct?

Alan: Yes, I served in the Air Force from '71 to '75. I was an aerial reconnaissance weather observer. That's been roughly 50 years ago, so the time went by very quickly.

Walt: Any special moments during this pilgrimage?

Alan: Probably the most special moment was to actually stand on the piece of real estate my dad stood on '79 and a half years ago. In fact, the day he stood there was Nov. 14, 1944. He was 24 or so years old at the time, so a lot of time has gone by, but it was an honor and a privilege to stand on the same soil that he did.

Walt: Was there anything else that stood out about Saipan?

Alan: We learned a lot about both Saipan and Tinian about the role our military played back in 1944 and '45.

It's a very sobering place to visit whether you're American or Japanese. I would place it in the same category as a Pearl Harbor or Gettysburg—for those familiar with the Civil War back in the [United] States. There are a number of places in our country I think are very, very special, very important to visit and to think about the things that took place there—in some cases a couple hundred years ago and others 80 years ago.

Walt: Well, I'm glad that you were able to visit and create a special experience with your dad. The people of Saipan welcome you and I'll be sharing your dad's photos that you've shared graciously with us.

Do you know Saipan? Help Alan identify specific spots at: <https://www.discoversaipan.com/blog/sonntag>

To watch the actual interview video, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/@discoversaipan>

MAKING

From page 10

won't be enough to address every issue facing low-income and middle-class people.

Budgets are political documents, and these initiatives to make substantial improvements in the lives of ordinary Americans at the cost of very modest reductions in the wealth of the fantastically wealthy are worthwhile.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Herman Sonntag, 1944



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In his father's footsteps: Alan Sonntag (2024) stands exactly where Herman Sonntag (1944) stood at the Obyan Beach blockhouse on Saipan—creating a special eight-decade connection between father and son.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lau Lau Bay, 1944



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lau Lau Bay, 2024

TINIAN PIKA FEST

A Trinity of Shamrock Sonnets

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.

Spud Spouting Sonnet on Irish Greens

On Irish people and the color green in 2024
What else and what more needs to be said
Depends on the amount of whiskey you pour
It won't hurt as it rolls around in your head
Ireland is fondly called by some the Emerald Isle
It rains a lot there and remains green year round
Many a red haired lass with Irish eyes that smile
Shamrocks found growing on the ground abound
Three stripes orange white and green on the flag
Woolen clothes horses and potatoes in the fields
Of independence from England Irishmen brag
Grains provide ample beer and whiskey yields
Musicians writers songs dance poetry and verse
In Gaelic and English one hears blessing and curse.

A Sonnet for St. Patrick's Day

Green gewgaws appear in variety stores before Valentine's Day

Green leprechaun t-shirts shamrock ties and hats sold by the score
Green beer everywhere a green river even runs in Chicago today
In New York's parade Irish pipes policemen marching bands more
In Erin folks used to get up and go to morning Mass in a local church
They'd eat a simple meal of pork potatoes tea and Irish soda bread
Many Irish leave the big green commercial machine in the lurch
While underneath ladies wool scarves peeks hair of beautiful red

St. Patrick departed the Emerald Isle over fourteen hundred years ago
Kidnapped in Scotland and taken as a slave to Erin when a young boy
After six years he escaped to return in a small boat he could row
Returning as a priest bringing what became Catholic guilt and joy
Patrick is now used as an excuse for people to drink booze like a fish
From green beer to Irish whiskey dear they all wish they were Irish.

The Old Sot and The Old Sod

(an Irish-American reverie by Joey Leahy Connolly)

If I should pass out think but this of me
That there's a small corner of this old pub
That is forever Ireland and will always be
A place you can eat some decent grub
Outside is Ireland the sot dreams aware
He's back there in his drunken present state
Tasting Irish cheddar cheese eating pub fare
With a dark beer a corned beef cabbage plate
He'll have one more pint drink it right away
A drop or two now of Tullamore Dew no less
Takes him back to Ireland God may it bless
Earphones sing harps strings and pipes today
Uilleann (elbow) pipes and songs by the dozen
His heart and soul at peace now in Irish heaven.

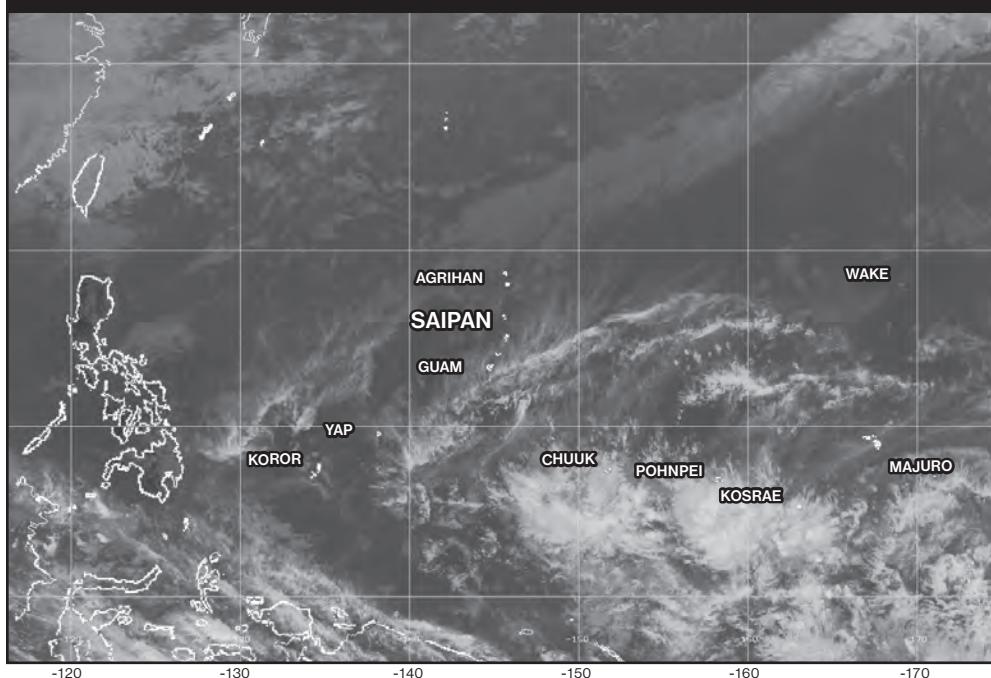
The "old sod" is an endearing term used by many Irish when referring to their mother country. I am of Irish-American heritage. My father's side is from Galway, my mother's side from Limerick. These three poems have been revised from first appearance in the *Saipan Tribune* on March 16, 2018.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
85	76°	85	76°	85
85	76°	85	76°	85

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:27 AM THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies with isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The Tanapag buoy just northwest of Saipan reveals combined seas of 6 to 8 feet composed of an east-northeast swell with wind waves on top.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA		
	▲	▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 80°
Majuro	Cloudy/Wind	85° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:22 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:21 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:58 AM	11:23 PM	-
Saturday	10:49 AM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:23 AM	11:44 AM
Monday	-	1:21 AM	12:39 PM
Tuesday	-	2:14 AM	1:35 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

AROUND THE GLOBE		
	▲	▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 63°
Beijing	Fair	67° / 36°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	69° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	75° / 69°
London	Partly Cloudy	52° / 39°
Los Angeles	Showers	60° / 48°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 78°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 73°
New York	Clear	60° / 48°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 38°
Paris	Showers	55° / 37°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	56° / 39°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	66° / 45°
Salem	Cloudy	68° / 55°
San Francisco	Showers	53° / 43°
Seoul	Sunny	54° / 31°
Tokyo	Sunny	56° / 40°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	73° / 47°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:15 AM	Low Tide	0.91
10:34 AM	High Tide	1.83
6:00 PM	Low Tide	-0.14
-	-	-

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2024

DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA076 9:50AM 10:35AM Daily					UA174 8:00AM 8:45AM Daily				
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
UA824 7:05AM 9:45AM 1, 3, 5					UA825 9:25PM 2:00AM+1 2, 4, 7				
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
PR 111 5:55AM 7:55AM Daily					UA189 00:40AM 6:30AM 3, 6				
UA193 7:50PM 11:50PM 2, 5 via Palau					PR110 10:05PM 3:55AM+1 Daily				
UA183 7:55PM 9:50PM Daily					UA192 10:40PM 6:30AM+1 2, 5 via Palau				
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					UA184 10:55PM 4:45AM+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7				
7C3403/2305 4:40AM 10:20PM Daily					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA076/183 9:50AM 9:50PM Daily via Guam					UA189/174 00:40AM 8:45AM+1 3, 6 via Guam				
UA076/193 9:50AM 11:50PM 2, 5 via Guam, Palau					UA192/174 10:40PM 8:45AM+1 2, 5 via Palau, Guam				
7C2306/3406 11:15PM 3:30PM+1 Daily					UA184/174 10:55PM 8:45AM+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam				
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)					7C3462 08:00AM 1:30PM Daily Feb 7-16 only				
TW308 2:15AM 6:10AM Daily					7C3406 10:10AM 3:30PM Daily				
7C3403 4:40AM 8:35AM Daily					TW307 7:45PM 1:15AM+1 Daily				
7C3405 4:35PM 8:25PM Daily					7C3404 10:15PM 3:35AM+1 Daily				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA				
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BPD Office expands digital equity dialogue with town halls on Rota, Tinian

The CNMI Broadband Policy and Development Office, established under the CNMI Office of the Governor, will expand digital equity talks in the CNMI by hosting digital equity town hall events on both Rota and Tinian.

This initiative follows the

BPD Office's digital equity town hall event held on Saipan on Feb. 27, 2024 and the unveiling of its Digital Equity Plan on March 6, 2024, ensuring that all CNMI residents have equal access and opportunity to learn about the Digital Equity Plan.

The BPD team will visit

Rota on March 19-20, 2024, with a town hall event scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, from 5pm to 6pm at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall. The visit to Tinian is set for March 22-23, 2024, with a town hall meeting on Saturday, March 23, 2024, from

10am to 11am at the Tinian Public Library. These sessions will offer community members a detailed look into the digital equity plan's strategies and initiatives aimed at bridging the digital divide.

With the digital equity plan now open for public com-

Bills vs. tobacco/e-cigarette youth use and illegal dumping now law

HAGATNA, Guam—Three bills sponsored by Sen. Sabina Flores Perez were signed into law, marking significant milestones in the legislation addressing illegal dumping and the epidemic of tobacco/nicotine use amongst our youth.

Bill 171-37 (COR), now Public Law 37-77, aims to deter illegal dumping by basing fines on the amount dumped rather than the number of violations, thus correcting a potential issue in which violators could have been penalized with a fixed fine, regardless of the amount dumped.

Additionally, the Public Law 37-77 authorizes GEPA to establish a rewards program to those who report illegal dumping that leads to imposition of fines, thus expanding enforcement capacity.

"Illegal dumping is not only an encumbrance on the beauty of our island, but also affects our livelihoods. It could leave hazards in our environment if left unchecked and could also impact our lands, our waters, and the health of our people," said Perez.

Bills 186-37(LS) and 187-37(LS), now Public Laws 37-78 and 37-79 respectively, are a series of measures created to address the epidemic of e-cigarette use amongst our youth that can have lasting health impacts. Public Law 37-78 redistributes the collection of

tobacco fees and penalties, including compliance and enforcement penalties, to directly fund government programs that administer tobacco, nicotine and e-cigarette compliance, monitoring, prevention and education

programs. Public Law 37-79 prohibits the sale of tobacco and nicotine products and e-cigarettes through vending machines to prevent access by youth to highly addictive substances.

Perez thanks Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero, her colleagues, and the community for their support in recognizing the importance of promoting greater stewardship of our people and the environment. (PR)

Richard C. Miller, F0458
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Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT BANK,	Civil Action No. 22-0144
Plaintiff,	
V.	NOTICE OF SALE
LEILANI D. ELLIS	
(aka LEILANI C. ELLIS),	
LEIANN R. ELLIS, and	
CLIFFORD M. CAMACHO,	
Defendants.	

Plaintiff Pacific Islands Development Bank ("PIDB") hereby gives notice that, in order to satisfy sums due pursuant to the Judgment and Order dated September 12, 2023, in favor of PIDB, and the Order of Foreclosure Sale dated February 20, 2024, the auctioneer designated in the Order of Foreclosure Sale will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., the following parcel of real property:

Lot 004 D 24, Garapan, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 004 D 00, the original of which was registered 16 November 1970 as Document No. 650 at Land Registry, including all improvements, appurtenances, and easements used in connection therewith, all water and water rights used in connection therewith, and also the rents, issues, and profits thereof ("the Property").

TERMS OF SALE

1. **Auction Location.** The auction will be held at the law offices of Banes Horey Berman and Miller, LLC ("Banes Horey"), Macaranas Building, First Floor, 4165 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

2. **Auction Procedure.** The auctioneer designated by the Court will conduct an auction via competitive bidding. The bidding will remain open until the auctioneer declares it closed. If a dispute arises between bidders, the auctioneer shall make the final decision either to determine the successful bidder or to resell the Property.

3. **Auctioneer's Rights.** The auctioneer may withdraw the Property from sale at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; adjourn the auction without notice, at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; reject any bid, for any reason; or expel a bidder from the auction location.

4. **Bids.** Bidders may submit bids in advance for the Property. These bids will not be binding. The highest advance bid will become the opening bid for the Property on the day of the auction. During the bidding, bidders may make bids in person or by telephone to Banes Horey at (670) 234-5684.

5. **Deposit.** The successful bidder shall give Banes Horey an earnest money deposit by personal check, cashier's check, or money order equal to 10.00 percent of the winning bid amount ("the Deposit"). Banes Horey will apply the Deposit toward the amount of the winning bid. If the winning bidder fails to deliver the Deposit to Banes Horey before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the auction, the winning bidder's bid will be deemed to be automatically rejected, without further notice to the winning bidder. A bidder who bids by telephone shall comply with the deposit requirement.

6. **Sale Terms.** The winning bidder shall pay the full amount of the winning bid to PIDB by personal check, cashier's check, or money order no later than 10 business days after winning the auction. The closing will take place at Banes Horey, Macaranas Building, First Floor, 4165 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

The winning bidder may request that the closing proceed through escrow, on condition that the winning bidder pay all escrow fees.

7. **Property Sold "AS-IS WHERE-IS."** The Property is being sold in "AS-IS WHERE-IS" condition. PIDB and the auctioneer make no representations, express or implied, with respect to the Property's title, area, location, or suitability for any particular purpose, or the existence or non-existence of any conditions that might affect development of the Property, including but not limited to zoning, hazardous waste, historical preservation issues, threatened or endangered species, and wetlands.

8. **Changes to Auction Terms.** Either PIDB or the auctioneer may change or add to these terms or any additional terms prior to or at the auction. An oral announcement made at the auction will supersede anything in writing, including these terms. All changes made in this manner will be binding on the winning bidder.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504351 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2024.

/s/
Dep. Clerk of Court

/s/
Richard C. Miller
Executive Director

ment and review until April 6, 2024, at 4:30pm ChSt, the BPD Office highly encourages community feedback as it contributes to enhancing the plan to better align with the needs of CNMI residents. The plan highlights the CNMI BPD Office's vision to a digitally inclusive environment across the CNMI's diverse populations, including low-income households, aging individuals, veterans, and people with disabilities, among others.

Residents of Rota and Tinian are encouraged to participate in the upcoming town hall events to learn more about the Digital Equity Plan and to also contribute their insights

and feedback. The insights gathered from these discussions will be instrumental in shaping a digitally inclusive future for all CNMI residents.

The BPD Office encourages everyone to participate in this important process. To view the workplan and submit comments, visit their website at bpd.cnmi.gov or email them directly at cnmi.bpd@gmail.com. Additionally, bi-weekly virtual meetings are held every other Friday at 3pm to provide updates on their progress within the Digital Equity Program. To access the bi-weekly virtual meetings, visit the link on their website bpd.cnmi.gov or contact them at cnmi.bpd@gmail.com. (PR)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-24

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS AT THE FRANCISCO M. BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters at the Francisco M. Borja/Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI. The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **February 12, 2024**, upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. CHST, March 15, 2024**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than **ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount**. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Date: _____

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PORT OF SAIPAN CPA OFFICE LEAK REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Office Leak Repairs at the Captain George F. Fleming Memorial Building at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-SS-001-22.

The project is being funded by the CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wpreater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri N. Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wpreater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, by no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024**.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Date: February 14, 2024

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 14, 2024

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director



NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID Automated Teller Machine FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-006-24
CPA Concession No.: SAT-2024-01

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitations for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations to provide Automated Teller Machine at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning March 15, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed on its austerity days and holidays. The IFB includes a layout and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than April 2, 2024.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-006-24." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **3:00 p.m. CHAMORRO STANDARD TIME, APRIL 18, 2024**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on April 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to provide Automated Teller Machine services at a certain designated location within the Saipan International Airport for a period of five (5) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date

GPF to dedicate conductor batons made of *ifit* at TBMF

As the 2024 Tumon Bay Music Festival comes to a close on March 16, the Guam Philharmonic Foundation will host a dedication and blessing ceremony for 10 conductor batons made of the wood of Guam—*ifit*—as a prelude to the Festival Finale Concert.

The role of the modern symphonic conductor has been credited to German composer Felix Mendelssohn, who also revived many of the music from the Baroque period, especially the works of Bach.

Historical records show

that European music (mainly church music) was introduced to Guam shortly after Magellan's arrival in 1521.



Early music groups did have musical leaders; however, baton wielding conductors may have arrived after the arrival

of the Americans at the end of the Spanish-American War as U.S. Navy Band leaders.

The purpose of the dedica-

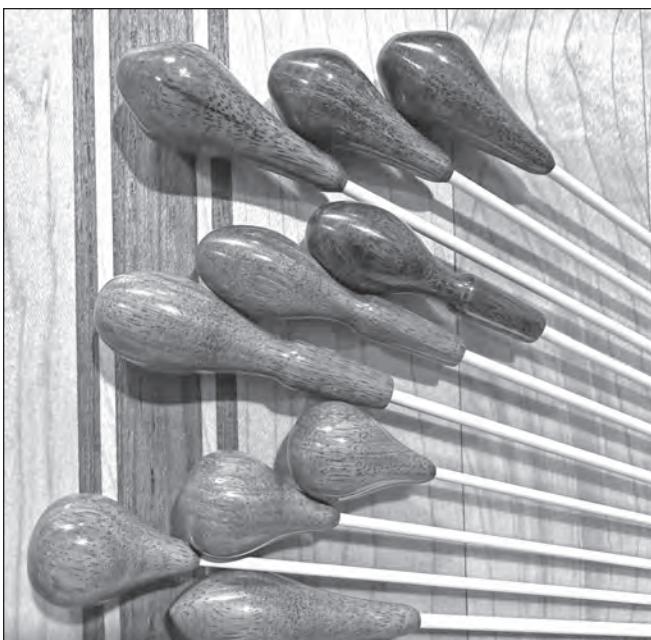


tion and blessing ceremony is two-fold:

■ First, to bless these symbols of musical leadership

from three perspectives: first, from the people of this land—the CHamoru; the Abrahamic faith perspective, and an Asian Philosophical perspective. Music is very powerful and those who get the privilege of being musical leaders should lead with honor and integrity.

■ Second, with the batons made from the wood of the land (*ifit*) which normally takes decades to grow before being transformed, it is through this dedication ceremony that we ignite the flame and bestow on those who get to use these



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Conductor batons made of the wood of Guam—*ifit*—will be used as a prelude to the 2024 Tumon Bay Music Festival Festival Finale Concert.

a baton maker and music educator from California. The *ifit* wood blanks were provided by Robert Taitano Jr. from the Ifit Shop in Yigo.

For more information you can visit www.glcustom-batons.com.

The *ifit* batons will be made available to established and aspiring conductors for their use at any upcoming concert locally and abroad. For more information, you can contact the GPF at info@guamphilharmonic.org.

Following the ceremony will be the 2024 Tumon Bay Music Festival Finale Concert featuring soloists and representative ensembles from various genre. Additionally, the Festival Orchestra, Choir and Band, joined by musicians from across the globe (including members from the Air Force Band), will perform. This is the must-attend event to get a snapshot of the 10-day festival in just a few hours.

Danny Nagashima, a former general director of the Sokka Gakkai International-USA and former board member of Soka University of the Americas who is visiting from California, will provide some remarks as an advocate for peace around the world.

The *ifit* batons were each handcrafted by N. Guy Lake

For the full schedule of the Tumon Bay Music Festival visit tbfmguam.org. (PR)

**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID**

ITB NO.: ITB24-JUD-42400045

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 15, 2024 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF THE FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AND REPAIR AND UPGRADE OF THE FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM AT THE GUMA' HUSTISIA"

A COPY OF THE ITB SPECIFICATIONS AND DRAWINGS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE AT THE CASHIER'S WINDOW, DOOR #5, 1ST FLOOR, GUMA' HUSTISIA, SUSUPE, SAIPAN BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. MONDAY TO FRIDAY, EXCLUDING OBSERVED HOLIDAYS. BIDDERS SHALL NOTIFY THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER AT procurement@nmijudiciary.gov ONE (1) DAY BEFORE THE DATE AND TIME BIDDERS ANTICIPATE TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE ITB DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS. THE SPECIFICATIONS AND DRAWINGS WILL BE PROVIDED VIA UNIVERSAL SERIAL BUS (USB). BIDDERS MUST BRING THEIR OWN USB DEVICE.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE JUDICIARY COURT BY APRIL 5, 2024, TO MS. CHRISTINE ANINZO VIA EMAIL AT procurement@nmijudiciary.gov

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ TRACY B. NORITA
SECRETARY, FINANCE**

**/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS**

**/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE, NMI JUDICIARY**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400061

SUBMISSION DATE: April 18, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Obyan Road Paving and Drainage Improvement Project."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **March 15, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 03, 2024, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 10, 2024 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW**

**/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services**

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Man Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. Box 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TERMINAL ROOF LEAK REPAIRS
Project No. CPA-SA-001-24**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Terminal Roof Leak Repairs Project at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-001-24.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request must be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, by no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, March 8, 2024**.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

**/s/ LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director**

Date: February 12, 2024

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. Box 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-007-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

**PROVIDE AND INSTALL SIX (6)
BRAND NEW COMMERCIAL A/C UNITS**

FRANCISCO M. BORJA/TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING FEBRUARY 12, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE PAYMENT OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "PROVIDE AND INSTALL SIX (6) BRAND NEW COMMERCIAL A/C UNITS (IFB-007-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MARCH 15, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 540-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

**LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

DATE: _____

Gonzales to officially announce delegate candidacy this Sunday

John Oliver Reyes "Bolis" Gonzales will officially announce his run for NMI delegate to U.S. Congress live on Sunday, March 17, 11am CHST on KKMP Radio, Facebook, and Zoom.



Gonzales

Gonzales, Saipan born and homegrown son with mixed CHamorro and Filipino heritage, will share his lifelong passion and impeccable record of public service, community advocacy, and leadership in many nonprofit organizations spanning over two decades. He also served as a grant writer in the CNMI executive and legislative branches and U.S. federal departments and U.S. Congress and worked as a former chief of staff to two prior gubernatorial administrations, among others, helping people and everyone no matter their origin who live and call the Marianas home.

He will premise his achievements, his vision, and plans, leveraging the Covenant as a bold leader and his proven record to build upon the work of the current delegate. He will do so in order to relentlessly work on pressing issues unique to the Northern Marianas and which matters to its people in his pursuit to become the next NMI delegate to Congress this coming November mid-term elections. (PR)

Business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

CK Smoke House, that's where it's at. That's the answer to Wendy's age-old question where's the beef as the Chalan Kanoa restaurant unveiled its newest meat menu that can make any caveman or keto diet practitioner drool with excitement

CK Smoke House's new all-star lineup includes beef and vegetable hot pot, local beef kelaguen, Korean pot BBQ, beef pancake, and their own version of bulgogi.

Manager Dae Il Lee said the five new dishes take advantage of sister company, Marianas Meat Harvesting Corp., as it's the only certified USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service in the CNMI, guaranteeing the freshest meat this side of the Western Pacific.

"We aim to offer the CNMI community with locally grown beef and pork meats. The meats are already available at Sabalu Market and Fresh Market-Meat/Seafood/Others in Garapan. But in order to reach more customers, CK Smoke House came up with this additional meat menu for the community to enjoy," he said.

Originally called Millefeuille Nabe (*Mille-feuille* is "leaves" in French and *Nabe* is Japanese for "beef hot pot"), beef and vegetable hot pot is inspired by Japan and Korea's beef soup.

"What's best about it is that CK Smoke House uses local fresh meats with less fat and a very light, healthy, and savory flavored soup," said Lee.

DB Media inks 2nd radio station in past 6 months

Friends and business partners David Hood and Bob Webb, owners of DB Media, recently received approval from the Federal Communication Commission to purchase their second radio station, Power 99 FM, after obtaining approval last July to purchase KZMI 103.9 FM. The two radio stations have a combined 75 years of operation in the CNMI.

This story starts like many throughout history...a guy walks in a bar. Almost 10 years ago Hood and Webb met on a typical Saipan weekend in Godfather's Bar. It's a slow night but Jerry and the band are kicking it like it's a packed house. The two

absolute strangers strike up a casual conversation mostly because there is no one else to talk to and here we are almost 10 years later, they are now co-owners of Saipan's two most listened to radio stations, KZMI 103.9 and Power 99.

Their mission now is to bring fun back into Saipan

radio. they are already planning on hiring new morning and afternoon drive talents, also engineering improvements that will make the two stations stand apart from the competition.

Hood said "as for the format I see no drastic changes in either station as both have built up an extremely loyal audience over the last 40 years." (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

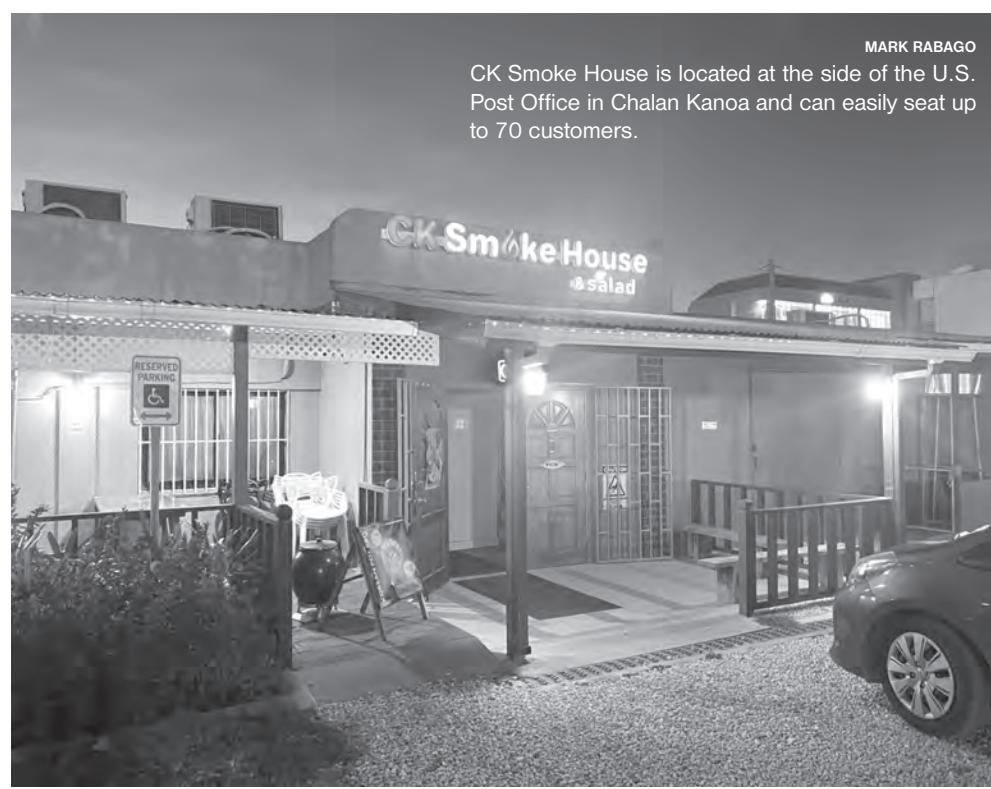
DB Media owners David Hood, right, and Bob Webb now own radio stations Power 99 FM and KZMI 103.9 FM in the CNMI.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

David Hood, right, and Bob Webb sign the papers for the formal acquisition of radio station Power 99 FM,

CK Smoke House unveils 'beefiest' menu



MARK RABAGO

CK Smoke House is located at the side of the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa and can easily seat up to 70 customers.



MARK RABAGO

CK Smoke House's local beef kelaguen.



MARK RABAGO

CK Smoke House's bulgogi.

Beef *kelageun*, meanwhile, is literally Chamorro raw beef and Lee said it pretty much suits the local palate.

"Since this menu can only be made using fresh raw meats, CK Smoke House is confident to serve it since the meat comes directly from our company-operated slaughterhouse," he said.

CK Smoke House's Korean pot BBQ offers lightly charred and smoky grilled meat. The marinated meat is baked for many hours in a Korean traditional clay pot with the charcoal emitting far-infrared heat that slowly cooks the meat, which also gradually releases the meat's fats.

Lee said this special method gives the meat a tastier and more flavorful taste.

The beef pancake is a Korean popular dish that offers the best flavor and texture with thinly sliced meat, eggs, and simple condiments.

"We are happy to introduce this Korean comfort food to Saipan," said Lee.

And everyone's favorite Korean meat dish, bulgogi—also called *yakiniku*—has been further enhanced by CK Smoke House by using fresh meat with its own special sauce.

"Of the five newly introduced dishes, so far, the bestseller is the bulgogi. However, people who have tasted our beef and vegetable soup gave very positive feedbacks. So, I think the *nabe* will become more popular in the future. We are also optimistic that Korean pot BBQ will become one of our bestsellers as well," said Lee.

Save for the Korean pot BBQ, while the rest are readily available in other Korean restaurants on Saipan, Lee said what sets CK Smoke House's versions of these time-tested dishes are the freshness of their meats.

"Aside from offering the best and authentic Korean menu, CK Smoke House's edge from other restaurants is that our meats come from locally grown grass-fed cows and pigs. The livestock are processed under the strict supervision of USDA-FSIS personnel so we can guarantee the meat's freshness. CNMI residents can enjoy the benefits of healthier meats."

Having your own slaughter-



MARK RABAGO

CK Smoke House's beef pancake.



MARK RABAGO

CK Smoke House's Korean pot BBQ.



MARK RABAGO

CK Smoke House's vegetable hot pot.

Nation

Biden looks to shore up Democratic 'blue wall'

MILWAUKEE (AP)—President Joe Biden is getting to be a familiar face around the Great Lakes—and with a November rematch against Donald Trump looming, that's no accident.

He started a two-day swing through Wisconsin and Michigan in Milwaukee on Wednesday as he tried to shore up a Democratic "blue wall" and build momentum for his reelection campaign after a fiery State of the Union address last week.

Aiming to show voters that his administration has improved their lives, Biden used the stop to announce \$3.3 billion for infrastructure projects in disadvantaged communities, including \$36 million to reconnect parts of Milwaukee's 6th Street, which had been divided by highway construction in the 1960s.

"We're rebuilding the roads, we're filling in the cracks in the sidewalk, we're creating spaces to live and work and play safely, and to breathe clean air, and to shop at a nearby grocery stocked with fresh and healthy food," he said.

"You've lived and felt decisions made decades ago," Biden said. "Today, today, we're making decisions to transform your lives for decades to come."

The money comes from the

» As he announces millions for projects

bipartisan infrastructure law that Biden signed in the first year of his presidency.

Biden told voters that Donald Trump, his Republican predecessor and likely opponent in this year's election, had promised infrastructure improvements but never delivered.

"He didn't get a single thing done," Biden said. "Not one."

Biden and Trump clinched their parties' nominations on Tuesday after decisive victories in the primaries, setting up what promises to be a grinding rematch between the two men.

Much of that battle will be fought in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as Pennsylvania, which was Biden's first stop after his State of the Union. They're collectively known as a "blue wall" because of their historic support for Democrats.

Trump flipped all three to win the White House in 2016, but Biden took them back four years ago and likely needs to hold them if he's going to secure a second term.

Biden also plans to travel to North Carolina and other battleground states in the coming weeks. He has been overseeing openings of field offices as his campaign hires and trains organizers and begins assembling volunteers.

That's meant as a show of political organizing

strength—an area where the president has so far outpaced Trump, who has been occupied for months with a competitive primary and four ongoing criminal cases in which he faces 91 felony counts.

Biden's reelection campaign hopes on-the-ground organization can neutralize the president's low approval ratings and polling showing that a majority of voters—even a majority of Democrats—don't want him to seek reelection.

"This particular president is a really impressive retail politician. He doesn't just do the rally and leave," said Jim Paine, the mayor of Superior, Wisconsin, a port city on the border with Minnesota. Biden has been there twice, including in January to promote a bridge built as part of the infrastructure law.

"He really puts time in with people, listens to individual stories, he talks about his own life one-on-one," Paine said.

The \$3.3 billion in grants announced on Wednesday covers 132 total projects, including in Atlanta; Los Angeles and Philadelphia as well as Birmingham, Alabama; Syracuse, New York; and Toledo, Ohio. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said that some of the projects are relatively modest and can be completed in "short order," while others are "massive and ambitious undertakings that will take many years."

House passes bill that could lead to TikTok ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House on Wednesday passed a bill that would lead to a nationwide ban of the popular video app TikTok if its China-based owner doesn't sell its stake, as lawmakers acted on concerns that the company's current ownership structure is a national security threat.

The bill, passed by a vote of 352-65, now goes to the Senate, where its prospects are unclear.

TikTok, which has more than 170 million American users, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chinese technology firm ByteDance Ltd.

The lawmakers contend that ByteDance is beholden to the Chinese government, which could demand access to the data of TikTok's consumers in the U.S. whenever it wants. The worry stems from a set of Chinese national security laws that compel organizations to assist with intelligence gathering.

"We have given TikTok a clear choice," said Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash.

"Separate from your parent company ByteDance, which is beholden to the CCP (the Chinese Communist Party), and remain operational in the United States, or side with the CCP and face the consequences. The choice is TikTok's."

House passage of the bill is only the first step. The Senate would also need to pass the measure for it to become law, and lawmakers in that chamber indicated it would undergo a thorough review. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said he'll have to consult with relevant committee chairs to determine the bill's path.

President Joe Biden has said if Congress passes the measure, he will sign it.

"We will not stop fighting and advocating for you. We will continue to do all we can, including exercising our legal rights, to protect this amazing platform that we have built with you," Chew said in his message to the app's users.

In anticipation of the vote, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Wang Wenbin, accused Washington of resorting to political tools when U.S. businesses fail to compete. He said the effort would disrupt normal business operations and undermine investor confidence "and will eventually backfire on the U.S. itself."

World

Putin warns again: Russia ready to use nuke weapons



AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during an interview with Rossiya Segodnya International Media Group Director General Dmitry Kiselev, in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Russia is ready to use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty or independence is threatened, issuing another blunt warning to the West just days before an election in which he's all but certain to secure another six-year term.

The Russian leader has repeatedly talked about his readiness to use nuclear weapons since launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. The most recent such threat came in his state-of-the-nation address last month, when he warned the West that deepening its involvement in the fighting in Ukraine would risk a nuclear war.

Asked in an interview with Russian state television released early Wednesday if he has ever considered using

battlefield nuclear weapons in Ukraine, Putin responded that there has been no need for that. He also noted that he doesn't think that the world is heading for a nuclear war, describing U.S. President Joe Biden as a veteran politician who fully understands the possible dangers of escalation.

When asked for U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres' reaction to Putin's remarks, spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said that "all rhetoric that could lead to miscalculation or escalation with obvious catastrophic consequences for the world must be avoided."

Putin's comments appeared to be a message to the West that he's prepared to use all means to protect his gains in Ukraine. He said that in line with the country's security doctrine, Moscow is ready to

use nuclear weapons in case of a threat to "the existence of the Russian state, our sovereignty and independence."

"All that is written in our strategy, we haven't changed it," he said.

In an apparent reference to NATO allies that support Kyiv, he also declared that "the nations that say they have no red lines regarding Russia should realize that Russia won't have any red lines regarding them either."

Lithuania's foreign minister, Gabrielius Landsbergis, recently lamented that the West too often constrains itself with self-imposed "red lines" regarding Russia. He also welcomed a comment by French President Emmanuel Macron that the possibility of Western troops being sent to Ukraine couldn't be ruled out.

Despair deepens for families of hostages in Gaza as Ramadan cease-fire deadline passes

JERUSALEM (AP)—A brother contemplated suicide. A sister stopped going to school. A father barely speaks.

With each passing day, the relatives of hostages held in Gaza since Oct. 7 face a deepening despair.

Their hopes were raised that a cease-fire deal was near to bring some of their loved ones home by the start of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month that began Monday. But that informal deadline passed without any agreement.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's promise of "total victory" in the war against Hamas now rings

hollow for many hostages' families after five emotionally draining months.

"We are reading the news every single minute. Egypt says something, the Qataris say something different, the Americans say a deal is close, Israel says it's not," said Sharon Kalderon, whose brother-in-law, Ofer, remains in captivity.

"We try to read between the lines, but we haven't heard anything about Ofer for months. Nothing that can help us breathe."

When Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, they killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians,

and took around 250 hostages. Since then, Israel's offensive has killed more than 31,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, and driven hundreds of thousands to the brink of starvation.

About 120 hostages were freed during a November cease-fire that also led to the release of hundreds of Palestinians from Israeli prisons; three hostages were accidentally killed by Israeli forces during an attempted rescue mission. Now families are focused on bringing home the remaining hostages, at least 34 of whom are dead, according to the Israeli government.

Off the Wall

Rewards card leads to free gas for months—and theft charge

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—A Nebraska woman allegedly found a lucrative quirk at a gas station pump—double-swipe the rewards card and get free gas!

Unfortunately for her, you can't do that, prosecutors said. The 45-year-old woman was arrested March 6 and faces felony theft charges accusing her of a crime that cost the gas station nearly \$28,000.

Prosecutors say the woman exploited the system over a period of several months. Police learned of the problem in October when the loss-prevention manager at Bosselman Enterprises re-

ported that the company's Pump & Pantry in Lincoln had been scammed.

Fuel pumps at the station received a software update in November 2022 that managed, among other things, rewards cards. But the company was unaware of a glitch that allowed anyone swiping a rewards card twice to put a gas pump into demonstration mode. In demo mode, the user could pump gas at no cost.

A probable cause statement from prosecutors said the loss-prevention manager determined that one particular card had been used repeatedly to obtain free gas. Police

were able to trace the card to the suspect, and video surveillance showed the woman pumping gas on multiple occasions from November 2022 until June 1, when the glitch was fixed, the statement said.

Authorities believe the woman not only used the scam to get free gas, but that she allowed another woman to use her card—for a fee.

The probable cause statement said the other woman told police that she paid to use the card for "discounted fuel." Authorities believe the woman paid Thompson \$500 for gas purchases that should have cost about \$700.

IN ORDER TO CARE FOR ORPHANED KIT

Wildlife center staff pretend to be red foxes

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Employees of the Richmond Wildlife Center in Virginia are doing their best to act like mother foxes as they feed and care for an orphaned kit that found her way into their care.

In a video posted to the center's Facebook page Tuesday,

Executive Director Melissa Stanley is shown wearing a red fox mask and rubber gloves while feeding the tiny kit from a syringe. The kit sits on top of a large stuffed animal fox that is supposed to look like her mother, Stanley said.

The same Facebook post

explained why staff are wearing the mask to feed her, minimizing human sounds, creating visual barriers and taking other precautions. "It's important to make sure that the orphans that are raised in captivity do not become imprinted upon or habituated to humans," the post said.



WE ARE GRATEFUL

The Family of
†KEIKO KAMATA
(Kinpachi Mama-san)

We deeply appreciate and gratefully acknowledge everyone, both near and far, kind expression of sympathy in our time of sorrow.

Your presence, warm hugs, thoughtful messages and efforts for the support brought some comfort and did not go without notice. We appreciate it more than words can express and it will always be remembered.

Domo Arigato Gozaimasu
Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Thank You Very Much
Maraming Salamat Po

Misako Kamata & Kinpachi Restaurant Family

Science & Technology

Digital photo tweaks are now mainstream

NEW YORK (AP)—It's been a common refrain when seeking proof that someone's story or some event actually took place: "Pics, or it didn't happen."

But in a world where the spread of technology makes photo manipulation as easy as a tap on your phone, the idea that a visual image is an absolute truth is as outdated as the daguerreotype. And a photo can sometimes raise as many questions as it

was meant to answer.

That was seen in recent days when controversy descended upon an image of Kate, Princess of Wales, and her three children. News agencies including The Associated Press published, then retracted, the image given out by Kensington Palace over concerns it had been manipulated, leading to Kate saying on social media that she occasionally "experimented" with photo editing.

In that, she's hardly alone.

From something that was time-consuming and required a great deal of technical expertise in the days of actual film and darkrooms, digital editing has become something practically anyone can do, from adding filters to cropping images and much more. Apps abound, offering the easiest of experiences in creating and retouching photos and videos which can then be easily transmitted online and through social media.



In Loving Memory of

**†BOB HAJIME
DELEON GUERRERO
YAMAGISHI**

Born on July 15, 1973 and called to his everlasting life on March 6, 2024, at the age of 50.

†Bob will be greeted and reunited with his:
Grandparents: †Jose Cabrera & †Trinidad Agulto Deleon Guerrero
†Shigeru & †Yasue Yamagishi

Baptismal Godfather: †Jesus Kisa
Confirmation Godfather: †Jesus G. Villagomez

His memories will live in the hearts of his:
Parents: Akiyoshi & Dolores Deleon Guerrero Yamagishi

Children: Jesse John Hiroaki Duenas Yamagishi
Donavin Kenji Duenas and Viola Marie Yamagishi
Zackery Shigeru Duenas and Shenina Delgado Yamagishi
Sheniyah Yumi Delgado Yamagishi (Granddaughter)
Daenna Mari Duenas Yamagishi
Ruby Rie Laxamana Yamagishi
Riana Rae Laxamana Yamagishi
Rita Riona Laxamana (Reared Child)

Siblings & In-Laws: Calvin Shoji DLG. and Georgia S. Yamagishi & Children
Evan Isamu DLG. and Christine B. Yamagishi & Children
Annie Rima Yamagishi and Timothy T. Quan & Children

Special Friend: Rebecca Castro

Godparents: Eusebio & Margarita C. Borja

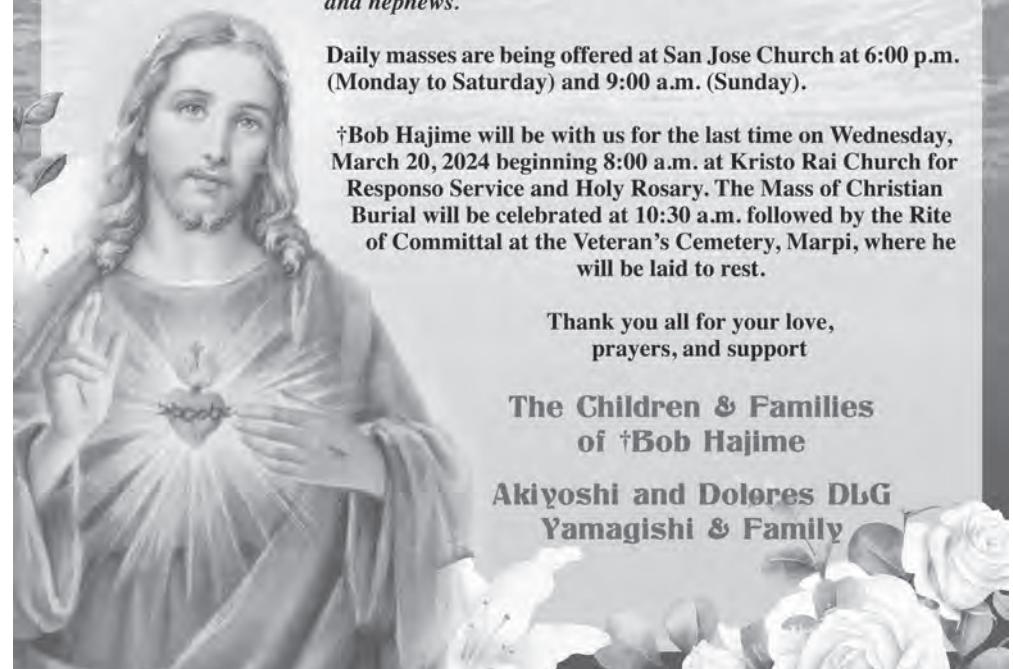
Our beloved †Bob Hajime will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Daily masses are being offered at San Jose Church at 6:00 p.m. (Monday to Saturday) and 9:00 a.m. (Sunday).

†Bob Hajime will be with us for the last time on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 beginning 8:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church for Responso Service and Holy Rosary. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Rite of Committal at the Veteran's Cemetery, Marpi, where he will be laid to rest.

Thank you all for your love, prayers, and support

The Children & Families of †Bob Hajime
Akiyoshi and Dolores DLG Yamagishi & Family



Life & Style

Kristen Stewart, Rose Glass, Katy O'Brian on their 'fun, sweaty, violent' film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kristen Stewart knows that not everyone should make movies. She also knows that Rose Glass should.

The 34-year-old English director and screenwriter is one of those rare original storytellers with daring things to say and the vision to do them justice. In other words, definitely not "everybody." Glass' first film "Saint Maud," was a chilling picture of faith and madness. Her second, "Love Lies Bleeding" (expanding in theaters this weekend) is also kind of about madness but of different sorts — that of love, of power and of strength (the literal kind).

"I wanted to make something kind of fun and sweaty and violent," Glass said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Moviemaking may be a risk-averse business, but Glass and her collaborators are not. Set in the American West in the 1980s, Stewart plays Lou, an introverted gym manager and daughter of a local conman (Ed Harris) who gets swept up in the fever dream of new love with an aspiring bodybuilder, Jackie (Katy O'Brian), who's passing through town.

"I loved that it felt a bit like mythology, like a comic book, throwback '80s," said Stewart. "I can't finish any of these sentences but the movie is good."

"(Rose) made this audacious and singular, unique experience personal for us and



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Rose Glass, center, director/co-writer of the film "Love Lies Bleeding," poses with cast members Kristen Stewart, left, and Katy M. O'Brian at the Four Seasons Hotel, Monday, March 4, 2024, in Los Angeles.

let us be our own individuals and just, like, traipse all over her thing," Stewart added. "It's so fun to work with people who are like cuckoo birds but also really concerted."

Glass, Stewart and O'Brian spoke to The Associated Press in an expletive-filled and slightly R-rated conversation about the twist on the idea of "strong female characters," their aversion to a certain overused shorthand and "Showgirls."

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: What were some of the things that really excited you about "Love Lies Bleeding"?

STEWART: I guess, like, in your dreams, you don't always do the right thing. And in movies, somehow girls are kind of expected to make everyone feel really comfortable. I think that's a very default

setting for women in general. And in this case, it was like, yeah, but what if I'm (expletive) and my rage is boiling out and bubbling over? And it also really turns me on to share that with another person?

O'BRIAN: It wasn't like just about resilience or just about one thing. There's so much that you can read into it if you want to, which I think is cool. Or you can just watch it and have fun.

AP: Why do you think it's subversive to make a movie about female power that's also literally about bodybuilding?

GLASS: Maybe it's just something you haven't seen. I don't know many films which have female body-builders in it.

STEWART: You said something recently about looking at a female body like that, like there's something

kind of punk about it. Because when you think of feminine qualities, unfortunately, we defer to like demure, or soft or elegant or sort of like something languid. And you're like, well, she's a woman, so she's inherently feminine. That's just not the shape that you're used to. But it is definitely female strength.

I think also just playing with toys that we're not usually allowed to play with in a petulant way. I'm like looking at Rose and going, "because you're a brat and you're (expletive) hilarious that's why you wanted to do this."

The idea of the strength, it must have come from annoying conversations that you were having in rooms with people who fund movies. And I could be wrong, but

that's my take.

GLASS: Like, "Oh do something with a strong female character?" I'll make her really muscley.

AP: It sort of makes me think about women being described as "kick (expletive)" which always makes me wince.

STEWART: Like "bad (expletive)."

O'BRIAN: The words "bad (expletive)" together.

STEWART: We've had it a lot today. And I don't mean to diminish anyone who used it, because it was really nice for them to say and it came with good intention. But it makes my toes curl so far into my body that I no longer have an (expletive). AP! Let's go.

AP: We'll put a demure "expletive" in there. Katy,

how did Jackie come alive for you?

O'BRIAN: What really helped me was everything else around: The wardrobes and the hair and makeup. Then getting to see Jackie next to Lou and see Jackie in the gym. I was trying to tell the costumers, I was like well people wouldn't really work out in this. And she's like, "Katy, people also don't grow to be 35 feet... We're going for the magazine vibe, the sexy vibe." And it's 100% what Jackie needed. Even the workout equipment that you got from the '80s, it's made for men because women didn't work out (that way). They did aerobics, Jane Fonda. You had to adjust your own height to try to figure out how to get the right muscle because it's bigger equipment.

Olivia Munn reveals cancer diagnosis, double mastectomy

Olivia Munn has revealed that she was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy, thanking her doctors and urging fans to calculate their own risk assessment.



"I'm lucky. We caught it with enough time that I had options. I want the same for any woman who might have to face this one day," the 43-year-old actor posted on Instagram on Wednesday with photos and a video of her being treated at a hospital.

Munn said she took a genetic test in February 2023 that

checks for 90 different cancer genes and was negative for all. Even so, her doctor decided to calculate her Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Score and that "saved my life," Munn wrote.

Recording a high score, Munn had imaging tests and then got a biopsy, which found she had an aggressive form of cancer in both breasts.

She had a double mastectomy 30 days after the biopsy and has had four surgeries in the past 10 months. She said she kept it private because "I needed to catch

my breath and get through some of the hardest parts before sharing."

Munn thanked family and friends, especially her partner, comedian John Mulaney, "for being there before I went into each surgery and being there when I woke up, always placing framed photos of our little boy Malcolm so it would be the first thing I saw when I opened my eyes."

Munn was a correspondent on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and her movie credits include "Magic Mike," "The Predator," "Office Christmas Party" and "X-Men: Apocalypse." (AP)

Estranged daughter is out of loop on dad's health

DEAR ABBY: Three years ago, our 40-year-old daughter, "Tanya," suddenly accused me of abusing her during her childhood. She also accused my husband, her dad, of enabling this abuse. Abby, the abuse never happened!

Could some therapist have planted these ideas in her head? Tanya has problems with alcohol (which she blames on me) and has been divorced from two wonderful men who she claims also abused her. She can't maintain friendships with women because as soon as they do something that makes Tanya mad, she cuts them off.

Our other daughter, "Nadia," is three years younger. She doesn't have an alcohol problem and has a great husband and a toddler. Tanya has cut her off as well and has never met her brother-in-law or nephew. Nadia says her childhood was idyllic. Neither child lives near us.

My husband is living with incurable cancer, which Tanya knew before she excommunicated us. I don't know if I should inform her when her father dies, or let her find out through others on Facebook. My husband and I and Nadia don't use Facebook, but relatives do, and I am sure they will make it known.

I am torn about this. Tanya has hurt all of us repeatedly for so many years that we all agree that life is more pleasant without her around us. However, I'm afraid not telling her will cause more problems. Advice?

DAMNED BOTH WAYS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DAMNED: You stated that Tanya has "excommunicated" you, her father and her sister. She appears to be an angry and bitter woman who needs to find someone other than herself to blame for her unhappiness. She's unlikely to improve without professional help or an alcohol intervention.

When your husband passes, I'm hoping you will write her a brief letter explaining that you want her to know her father loved her. Give her the date of his passing, his obituary and the location of his final resting place. If you do, your conscience should be clear. What, if anything, she decides to do with that information is up to her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I had a long and wonderful marriage before my husband passed away after a lengthy illness three years ago. I have supportive friends to go to lunch and coffee with, but I miss the companionship of a special someone. One of them is a man I have known for many years. He has been a widower for more than 10 years. He has dated several women with no commitments and is always a gentleman.

Before my husband's passing, he once said if I wasn't married, he would call me. He hasn't contacted me. How can I contact him without seeming aggressive? He has said that he's pleased with his current companion because there is "no drama." Please advise how an elegant lady can call him on the

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

phone (he doesn't use email).

CLASSY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CLASSY: Consider this: Throw a small party and invite some of your friends to join you. Then, pick up the phone and ask this gentleman if he AND his lady friend would like to join you. There is no reason you can't be friends, as long as you realize he is involved with someone else (for now).

■ ■ ■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Mitchell returns as Cavs hit 20 3s in win over Pelicans



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Donovan Mitchell returned from a seven-game absence and the Cleveland Cavaliers stemmed a two-game slide with style and on the road against an opponent that has been hard to beat lately.

Mitchell scored 14 points, Darius Garland had 27 points and 11 assists, and the Cleveland Cavaliers combined for 20 3-pointers in a 116-95 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Wednesday night.

"That's how we're supposed to play," Mitchell said. "Move the ball around, getting stops. It was just fun to watch and be a part of."

"We really stepped up against a great team," he added. "It was beautiful."

Mitchell, who made four 3s, was one of four Cavs with at least that many, along with Darius Garland (six) and Sam Merrill (five) and Georges Niang (four). Cleveland finished 20 of 45 from deep, while the Pelicans made just 4 of 22 from long range in losing for the first time in five games.

Center Jarrett Allen had 17 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks for the Cavs, who also were delighted by their 38 assists on 47 made baskets.

Zion Williamson had 33 points and nine rebounds for New Orleans. Brandon Ingram scored 20 and Trey Murphy III 11. New Orleans outscored Cleveland 56-52 in the paint and 21-2 from the foul line—statistical advantages which were more than wiped out by the dramatic disparity in 3-point shooting.

"We just weren't on from the 3-point line tonight," Williamson said. "But when nights like that happen, we have to find other ways to be effective."

The Cavaliers "played with more of a sense of ur-



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell (45) celebrates a three point basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in New Orleans, Wednesday, March 13, 2024. AP

gency," Pelicans coach Willie Green said. "They were the hungrier team."

"We had a letdown. So, not indicative who we've been, and the guys know it," Green added.

The Cavaliers have hit at least 20 3s in nine games this season, winning eight of those.

"If we're open, we want to take them. It boosts our offense because people have to chase us around," Bickerstaff said. "We've tried to make the 3-point shot a weapon and I think we did a great job of it tonight."

Mitchell hadn't played since Feb. 28 because of a left knee bruise. He said the knee felt better than he expected but that he still has to rebuild confidence in its stability before he's back to his vintage self.

His point total was just half his 28 per game average for the season, but having him back was big lift for the Cavs.

"He attracts so many people on the offensive end for us. You have to really load up on him," Garland said. "You have to respect what he does and opens up a lot of stuff for everybody else."

Cleveland was opportunistic inside but were not looking to stress the Pelicans defensively on the interior for much of the game. The Cavs didn't attempt their first free throw until Garland scored as he was fouled with nine minutes left in the fourth quarter.

"That just speaks to how well we played in other facets of the game," Mitchell said.

When Merrill made his final 3 of the game on Cleveland's next possession to put the Cavs up 100-74, fans began filing out.

Niang scored 16 points and Merrill 15. Cleveland reserve center Damian Jones, who grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, had one of his best games this season, scoring a season-high 14 points.

Mitchell had 16 points and Merrill 15. Cleveland reserve center Damian Jones, who grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, had one of his best games this season, scoring a season-high 14 points.

DALLAS 109, GOLDEN STATE 99

DALLAS (AP)—Luka Doncic scored 21 points while his triple-double streak ended at seven games, and the Dallas Mavericks slogged to a victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Doncic, the league's scoring leader, left the game in the fourth quarter with left

hamstring soreness.

The Warriors were without Stephen Curry for a third consecutive game, and it showed with sub-40% shooting almost the entire game in a fifth loss in six games this season without their star guard.

PORTLAND 106, ATLANTA 102

PORLTAND, Ore. (AP)—Anfernee Simons scored 36 points and the Portland Trail Blazers held off the Atlanta Hawks for the victory.

DeAndre Ayton added a season-high 33 points and 19 rebounds for Portland, which had lost four of its last five games.

Dejounte Murray had 40 points, one shy of his season high, for the Hawks in the first of an 11-day, five-game road trip, the team's longest of the season.

The Blazers trailed by as many as 16 points in the first half but closed the gap in the third quarter and led 82-75 going into the final period.

KINGS 120, LAKERS 107

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

Orlando's first playoff berth since 2020.

"We said it's going to be special from the beginning," Mosley said after practice in Orlando on Tuesday. "And that's what this group is. For them to continue to have the belief in what we're doing says a lot."

Mosley thanked the Magic front office—the ownership group in the DeVos family, president of basketball operations Jeff Weltman and CEO Alex Martins—for the commitment and "being able to believe in what we've done together."

"Jamahl and his staff have done a tremendous job not only this season, but since we hired him back in 2021," Weltman said. "His preparation,

work ethic, ability to connect with the players and passion he brings to the job every day brings positive results, both on the court and off. We are very happy to have Jamahl lead the Magic for years to come."

The Magic contending might be viewed as a surprise in some NBA circles this season. But Mosley has insisted, publicly and privately, since even before the season started that this Orlando team would be different. And he was proven right.

"It goes to the character," Mosley said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "When you talk about character, and care, and guys that get along and care for each other and communicate with each other the right way,

(AP)—Domantas Sabonis had 17 points, 19 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Sacramento Kings beat the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night.

The Kings have won seven of their last eight games against the Lakers, including a four-game sweep this season.

Harrison Barnes made seven 3-pointers and scored 23 points, De'Aaron Fox added 21 and Keegan Murray had 19 as all five starters for the Kings scored in double figures.

Sabonis' triple-double was his league-leading 23rd, with his last one coming in the Kings' victory at the Lakers last week.

Austin Reaves led the Lakers with 28 points. Anthony Davis added 22 points and 10 rebounds, and LeBron James had 18 points and 13 boards.

PISTONS 113, RAPTORS 104

DETROIT (AP)—Jalen Duren had a career-high 23 rebounds along with 24 points and five assists as the Detroit Pistons won three of four games for the first time in nearly two years, beating Toronto Raptors.

Detroit, which trailed by 16 points in the second quarter, hadn't won three of four since late in the 2021-22 season - a stretch of 145 games.

Duren posted his second game this season with at least 20 points, 20 boards and five assists. Nikola Jokic and Domantas Sabonis are the only other players with two this season.

Cade Cunningham added 19 points for Detroit, which had six players score in double figures. The Pistons have the second-worst record in the league, one game ahead of Washington.

MAGIC 114, NETS 106

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Paolo Banchero had 21 points and nine assists to lead the Orlando Magic to a win over the Brooklyn Nets.

Six other Orlando players scored in double figures including Wendell Carter Jr., who had

15 points and eight rebounds, and Jalen Suggs, who scored 11 of his 14 points in the first quarter to help the Magic take a 17-point lead that kept them ahead the rest of the game.

Cam Thomas led the Nets with 21 points and eight rebounds.

Mikal Bridges scored all 17 of his points in the second half for Brooklyn, and Dennis Schroeder and Cam Johnson added 13 points each.

Suggs hit three 3-pointers and Orlando shot 67% in the first quarter to grab a 33-16 lead.

Thomas and Dennis Smith led a 16-5 run to close out the first half with Brooklyn behind just 61-54.

DENVER 100, MIAMI 88

MIAMI (AP)—Michael Porter Jr. scored 25 points, Aaron Gordon added 16 and the reigning NBA champion Denver Nuggets took sole possession of first place in the Western Conference standings with a win over the sliding Miami Heat in a finals rematch.

Jamal Murray scored 14 points and Nikola Jokic finished with 12 points, 14 rebounds and six assists for the Nuggets (46-20), who moved a half-game ahead of Oklahoma City (45-20) and a full game up on Minnesota (45-21) in the West race.

Denver is an NBA-best 10-1 since the All-Star break.

Bam Adebayo scored 17 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for Miami. Jimmy Butler scored 15, Terry Rozier had 14 and Duncan Robinson added 11 for the Heat (35-30), who are now 2 1/2 games behind Orlando—a winner over Brooklyn on Wednesday—in the Southeast Division race.

HORNETS 110, GRIZZLIES 98

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Miles Bridges scored 27 points, rookie Vasa Micic added a career-best 25 and the Charlotte Hornets defeated the Memphis Grizzlies.

Micic shot 9 of 10, including 5 of 6 from 3-point range, and had eight assists.

Grant Williams added 18 points for the Hornets. Tre Mann, who missed the previous three games with a groin strain, finished with 10 points, as did Brandon Miller.

GG Jackson led the Grizzlies with 26 points, while Luke Kennard scored 17. Trey Jemison had 14 points and John Konchar finished with 13 points and nine rebounds for the Grizzlies, who have lost three of four.

Early in the fourth quarter, Hornets coach Steve Clifford reminded officials that Charlotte had not shot a free throw through three quarters. The Hornets finally got to the line with 10:13 left in the game. Mann, trying to convert a three-point play, missed the free throw.

NFL teams scramble to catch KC as free agency begins

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

 Calvin Ridley is heading to the Tennessee Titans, the highlight of the official start of free agency Wednesday when teams began reshaping their rosters in a quest to unseat the two-time defending champion Kansas City Chiefs.

Ridley—who had been expected to re-sign with the Jaguars—and the Titans agreed on a four-year, \$92 million contract with \$50 million guaranteed, a person with knowledge of the terms told The Associated Press.

Ridley gives young Titans quarterback Will Levis another playmaker. He started all 17 games for the Jaguars last season and finished with 76 receptions for 1,016 yards and eight touchdowns. Ridley, however, hasn't always been so reliable. He missed most of the previous two years because of a broken foot, a mental health break and a yearlong gambling suspension.

The Titans also added a veteran quarterback, agreeing with Mason Rudolph on a one-year contract, another person familiar with the decision told the AP.

» But the Chiefs aren't standing still

Also Wednesday, the Washington Commanders continued rebuilding their defense by luring six-time Pro Bowl linebacker Bobby Wagner from Seattle, and Joe Flacco is headed to the Colts



Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Calvin Ridley (0) catches a pass in front of Tennessee Titans cornerback Sean Murphy-Bunting (0) during their NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn.

and defensive tackle Mike Pennel returned to the Chiefs on a one-year deal after playing well in their Super Bowl win over the 49ers.

Also, Mahomes agreed to re-structure his contract to free up salary cap space.

The additional flexibility could mean that cornerback L'Jarius Sneed remains in Kansas City. The Chiefs used the franchise tag on him, which would equate to a one-year, \$19.8 million deal, but many expected them to ultimately trade Sneed for draft compensation and cap relief.

Now, the Chiefs could keep him at the tag number or use their newfound wiggle room to sign him to a long-term deal.

"There isn't much of a recruiting pitch that needs to be made with Kansas City," Tranquill said Wednesday. "You have incredible leadership, top to bottom. You have a culture that's a winning culture, that is not about egos or self or guys getting paid; we all want our guys to get paid, but everything at the Chiefs and in our organization is about winning, and it's about hoisting the Lombardi Trophy at the end of the season."

Wagner, who turns 34 this summer, led the NFL with 183 tackles last season. He becomes the centerpiece of the Commanders' defense under Dan Quinn and is another player the new coach is plenty familiar with. Wagner played two seasons for Quinn with the Seattle Seahawks in 2013 and '14, winning a Super Bowl together in the process.

"Seattle, we've done this before," Wagner posted on social media, referencing leaving the Seahawks in 2022 for one season with the Los Angeles Rams before returning in 2023. "You know what it is. It's always love. Until we meet again. I'm around."

Signing Wagner is one of many changes Washington's new general manager Adam Peters made after going into free agency with the most salary cap space in the league. Also coming are running back Austin Ekeler, veteran backup quarterback Marcus Mariota, tight end Zach Ertz and several others.

Among other deals Wednesday, the Eagles held onto kicker Jake Elliott, the Browns kept punter Corey Bojorquez and the Broncos re-signed fullback Michael Burton.

Teams needed to be under the \$255.4 million salary cap Wednesday, leading to numerous restructures. One notable cap casualty was receiver Mike Williams, who was released by the Chargers in a move that freed up \$20 million.

to help mentor Anthony Richardson on a one-year deal after helping the Browns reach the playoffs and winning the AP Comeback Player of the Year award.

Many of the top available free agents—including quarterback Kirk Cousins and running backs Saquon Barkley and Derrick Henry—agreed to deals during the two-day negotiating

period leading up to the start of the league's new year.

Their deals set in motion a major reshuffling of backfields in 2024 with a dozen seasoned QBs and more than a dozen veteran running backs switching teams.

And the Houston Texans continued their remarkably rapid rise from cellar to stellar by luring perennial Pro Bowl edge rusher Danielle Hunter from the Vikings to play op-

posite AP Defensive Rookie of the Year Will Anderson on Houston's defensive line.

Hunter had a career-best 16 1/2 sacks last year. His deal is a \$49 million, two-year contract with all but \$1 million guaranteed, a person with knowledge of the deal told the AP.

The Texans went from worst to first in winning the AFC South last season, advancing to the divisional round of the playoffs under first-year coach

DeMeco Ryans and rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud.

After losing the AFC championship at home to the Chiefs, Baltimore made a splash in free agency by luring Henry away from the Titans.

The two-time NFL rushing champ joins a Baltimore team that annually produces one of the league's leading ground games, and he'll partner with MVP quarterback Lamar Jackson.

Henry will be running behind a reworked Baltimore offensive line. The Ravens agreed to trade tackle Morgan Moses and a fourth-round draft pick to the Jets on Wednesday for New York's pick earlier in the fourth round and a sixth-round selection. Baltimore had already lost guard John Simpson to the Jets in free agency.

How much have the Ravens, Texans and others really closed the gap with the Chiefs, who have won three titles in the six seasons Patrick Mahomes has been their starter?

The champs didn't stand pat during the free-agency frenzy this week as general manager Brett Veach once again bucked the time-honored trend of champions losing core veterans to other teams.

Veach kept All-Pro defensive tackle Chris Jones from leaving Kansas City with a five-year, \$158.75 million contract. The deal was structured so that it only cost \$7.35 million against the cap this year.

Chiefs backup linebacker Drue Tranquill also signed a three-year, \$19 million deal to return before Wednesday's official start to free agency,

NFL considers rule changes that include challenges for penalties at end of halves

By JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The Indianapolis Colts are proposing a rule change that would allow for challenges of penalty calls in the last two minutes of the half.

The NFL released a list of several rule change proposals on Wednesday made by teams that included an option to run a fourth-and-20 play in lieu of an onside kick, the moving of the trade deadline and giving teams an additional challenge if they are successful on one of their first two tries.

The competition committee will make its own rule change proposals next week and owners are scheduled to vote on them at the league meetings later this month with 24 votes needed for approval.

The most consequential change would allow for challenges of penalty calls at the end of each half, giving coaches or replay officials the chance to correct egregious mistakes.

Penalties could be challenged by coaches or the replay booth, but would be lim-

ited only to penalties that were called on the field and could not impose a penalty when it wasn't called.

Replay review is currently not used for most penalty calls outside of too many men on the field or whether a ball was touched before a pass interference penalty occurred.

Replay is limited to aspects of a play such as whether a ball was caught or dropped, whether a player reached a first down or touchdown, whether a player fumbled before being down or whether a play was inbounds or out of bounds.

The NFL had a one-year experiment making potential pass interference calls reviewable in 2019 after a bad no-call cost the New Orleans Saints during the NFC championship game against the Los Angeles Rams the previous season. The league dropped that after one year.

The Lions also proposed giving a team a third challenge if one of its two first tries was successful. Currently teams only get a third challenge if

they are successful on both of their first two attempts.

The Eagles once again brought up a proposal to alter onside kicks for end-of-game situations after only 5% of onside kicks in the fourth quarter were recovered by the kicking team, according to Sportradar. That's down from 18.8% as recently as 2017 as new rules for safety have made recovering onside kicks more difficult.

The new proposal would allow a team trailing in the game to attempt a fourth-and-20 play from its own 20 following a touchdown or field goal instead of using a traditional onside kick.

The team would keep the ball at the yard line gained following a conversion or give the receiving team the ball if it failed. Teams could still opt to use surprise onside kicks.

Owners have voted down similar proposals with a fourth-and-15 option in recent years.

Here are some of the other proposals:

■ The Steelers proposed moving the trade deadline

back one week to the Tuesday following Week 9. Six other teams proposed moving it to the Tuesday following Week 10.

■ The Eagles proposed requiring scoreboard clocks to display tenths of seconds in the final minute of each half.

■ The Lions proposed eliminating the requirement that a player must be on the roster for at least one day following the cutdown to 53 players in order to be designated to return from injured reserve during the season.

Detroit also proposed allowing teams in the postseason to designate any player to return from IR after missing four games even if a team has used its allotment of eight designated to return slots in the regular season.

The Bills proposed allowing a team to promote a third player each week from the practice squad to the active roster if that player is a "bona fide" quarterback and was designated as the emergency third QB for the game.

512 registrants, 9 countries at Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024



Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024 attracted 512 registrants from nine countries and territories last Saturday, March 9, for full marathon, half marathon, 10K, and 5K courses in the Marianas.

Runners from The Marianas, Korea, Japan, China, Guam, USA, Hong Kong, Russia, France, Poland, and Ireland took to the start line beginning at 4:30am. Topping the men's division in the full marathon were Yuki Kaneyama (2:44:45) of Japan, Shohei Miyamoto (2:46:21) of Japan, and Ni Yusheng (2:57:53) of China. Leading the women in the full marathon were Lee Hana (3:31:54), Aspen Egbert (4:17:07), and An Bang (4:23:40) of the Marianas.

Saipan Marathon is a certified measured course by World Athletics in cooperation with the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races. The marathon is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority, organized in cooperation with Northern Marianas Athletics and sanctioned under NMA rules and regulations.



A group from Skechers and Tan Holdings Corp. prepare to start Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024 on March 9 in the Marianas. Over 500 registrants from nine countries joined the annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority

In his welcoming remarks at the awards banquet at Hyatt Regency Saipan, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion noted a 57% increase in registrants this year compared to the last marathon.

"Course certification by World Athletics, professional timing, a beautiful run in paradise, growing business and community support, an awards dinner at the beach, and you! It's been amazing," Concepcion said. "Our goal at the Marianas Visitors Authority is to continue to build each year on the foundation we have set of

delivering a world-class marathon here in the Marianas..."

Topping the men's half marathon were Jody O'Sullivan (1:23:41), followed by Santos Victor Nash (1:29:02), and Gong Jungchul (1:33:31). Leading the women were Lee Youn Kyung (1:40:11), Noriko Jim (1:45:02), and Jihee Kim (1:47:48).

With the largest pool of runners, the 10K was led in the men's division by Veloria Sildrey (1:09:00), followed by Kosuke Sato (1:11:19), and Bergancia Anthony John (1:12:20). Leading the women's division were Akiko Miller (1:13:33), Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez (1:13:32), and Maki Deguchi (1:18:33).



Atsuko Yoshimi and Yoshiko Nishida of Japan enjoy a little wackiness in the Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024 held on March 9 in the Marianas.



Raymund and Kathleen Tolentino of the Marianas take on the full marathon course and both finished third in their respective age divisions in the Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024 held on March 9 in the Marianas



Philip Joseph Santos, right, and a fellow full marathoner are aided by Saipan Paddling Club volunteers during the Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024 held on March 9 in the Marianas.

MAN

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and Audie Maratita scored in the sixth to make it 3-5.

Tokahao couldn't score in the sixth and with just one more inning left, they either hold on to win or Sufa makes a comeback. Sufa's J.J. Cabrera and Mel Manahane scored to tie the game, 5-5, and with the last at-bat to Tokahao—Larry Deleon Guerrero scored the walk off sixth run after a hit by Froilan Camacho to win the game.

Asahi 8, Redmen 6

Asahi beat the Redmen black and blue, 8-6.

Asahi held on to win after they scored all their runs in the first and third inning, while the Redmen's bats came alive in the fifth and seventh.

The Redmen cut the lead, 5-8, in the fifth inning after two homers by Lefty Shiro and Houston Martin, but Asahi pitcher Dom Hideo managed to silence them in the sixth inning. As a result, even if Asahi didn't score anymore, they held on to win as the Redmen could only put one more up on the board in the last inning.

Hagu La'mun 24, Tuturamz 17

Hagu La'mun clobbered Tuturamz, 24-17.

In a slugfest, Hagu La'mun shutdown Tuturamz in the last two innings to hold on to victory. Both teams had an explosive fifth inning—sporting nine runs each, but Hagu La'mun still had a 21-17 lead.

Tuturamz put in the work to close the gap even more, but Hagu La'mun's defense and pitching proved crucial as they held it together and shut down their offense. Hagu La'mun scored three more and won with a margin of seven runs.

Wazzup 17, Saipal 16

Wazzup won a close game in extra innings, 17-16, against Saipal.

Jack Guerrero scored the

17th run for Wazzup after a walkoff hit by Dennis Cabrera in the ninth inning to secure the W.

Both teams were tied, 12-12, in the sixth inning, after Wazzup blew their 7-0 lead in the fourth inning.

They were tied, 7-7, after Saipal got on board with a four-run fourth, and a three-run fifth. It was anybody's game in the ensuing innings, but no one could break the 12 runs and they remained tied in extras.

In the eighth, both teams scored four each, which made it a 16-16 game. Finally, Cabrera stepped up to the plate and ended the game in dramatic walk off fashion.

Teenagers took most of the top spots in the 5K, with Michael Miller (00:18:13), Pony Tang (0:18:48), and Takeru Jim (0:19:20) leading the men's division. In the women's division Adelee Taflinger (00:22:39) finished first, followed by the lone adult top finisher Tongren Zhang (00:29:10), and Emma Lang (0:30:21).

Nearly \$19,000 in cash prizes were awarded to the winners at the awards banquet at Hyatt Regency Saipan. Additional prizes were awarded for the Wacky Awards: Best Costume, Akira Takatsu and Jiamei Hong; Best Body Paint, Luisa Ernest and Ronald Quindoza; Shortest Shorts, Leo Wania and Chung Chise; Most Awesome Shoes, Jennifer Tan; Ugliest Shoes, Okawa Taro; and Craziest Hair, Liezel Davis.

Skechers was Exclusive Title Sponsor of the race. Coca-Cola, Foremost, Subway, Powerade were Platinum Sponsor. Gold Sponsors were Bridge Capital, IT&E, and Triple J Saipan. Silver Sponsors were United Airlines, Matson, The Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, and All-Star Sporting Goods. Additional sponsors were American Memorial Park and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In-kind contributors were WESTCO, Bike Pro, M&E Enterprises Inc. Saipan, Johnny's Bar & Grill, and Run Saipan. Aid stations were provided by Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Bridge Capital, Office of Vice Speaker Joel Camacho, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, DFS T Galleria, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, MY WAVE Clubs of Marianas High and Hopwood Middle Schools, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, PDM Promoters, Saipan World Resort, and Saipan Paddling Club.

Additional supporters were Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Public Works, Division of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Div. of Parks & Recreation, Jeju Air, Veterans Affairs Office, Marianas Health Services, Hawaiian Rock Products, and CNMI Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office.

The race began and ended at American Memorial Park in downtown Garapan, with the full marathon traversing Saipan's picturesque and lush northern Marpi area.

Saipan Marathon 2025 will be held on March 8, 2025. Registration is anticipated to open at raceroster.com this summer. (PR)

JAPAN'S

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soccer, the students also participated in kendo, a Japanese martial art, and took time to do some swimming.

The program itself is in its 12th iteration, including two online exchanges during the pandemic, beginning in 2014. They played friendlies against NMI players in 2023 after not making the trip in 2021 and 2022. Also last year, 25 students and eight faculty members from three universities (Ehime University, Okayama University of Science, and Kyoto University of Foreign Studies) took part in the program that ran from March 5 to 10, and had cultural exchanges with other schools.

Professor Keiji Hata, in an interview last Friday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, said the timing of their visit was great because they actually did not know the Saipan Marathon was happening when they were here, so he and two others joined the 5K and 10K events.

Hata has visited Saipan for many years and saw the devastation the sports facilities endured from the past typhoons.

MICHELOB

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by single-elimination playoffs.

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation said each team must have at least five players who are 21 years old or over to be eligible to play.

Now, he said, the NMI Soccer Training Center and the Oleai Sports Complex had significant improvements.

"I've seen significant improvements at the Oleai Sports Complex after it was damaged by two strong typhoons in the past. It's really good to have this kind of well-maintained facility for the residents and visitors to use for different activities. When we bring students to Saipan next year, we hope to utilize the Oleai Sports Complex facilities for our events," said Hata.

Hata and four others who are specialists in sports tourism, will visit the CNMI again this August, and the program participants will make their way here again next year.

In regards to tourism on Saipan, Hata said that Saipan's nature is beautiful and a lot of Japanese people love fishing, marine sports, and scuba diving, so that's something that can attract more Japanese tourists.

Hata added that he loves Saipan's resorts, but the most important factor that he loves visiting Saipan is the people. "The people here are very kind, I love them," he said.

The regular season will follow a round-robin format, with the Top 7 teams advancing to single-elimination playoffs.

In the inaugural season last year, the undefeated Martech Ol'Aces won over Team Marianas for the championship.

No one's keeping up with Sherlyn Jones in February ace

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR



Sherlyn Jones won the two-day Refaluwasch Golf Association February Ace of the Month



Tournament held last Feb. 10 and 24 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The Marianas Health, LLC Homecare Department staff shot a two-

round total of net 145 after firing a net score of 73 on Day 1 and 72 on Day 2.

"I was pretty lucky because I was able to control my long shots. Fairways were dry and was also windy," she said after the win.

Jones said RGA is a like a big family competing against each

other, "So, everyone's always cheering for each other."

Jones beat out Carl Hocog on a scorecard tiebreak, 34-36.5, for the February plum after the police officer carded a net 72 and net 73—the opposite of Jones' scores—on the two-round February ace.

Jones' son, Benjamin Jr., and

Manny Mangarero completed the Top 4 of last month's tourney with their identical scores of 147. The latter, however, lost on a scorecard tiebreak against the former.

The winner of the lowest gross score was Franco Santos with his raw total of 157 (77-80).

Sherlyn Jones went on to

dedicate her win in the RGA February tourney to members of CNMI Women's Golf Association and, of course, her family—Benjamin Sr., Benjamin Jr., and Darion.

In the closest to the pin competition, the winners were Sherlyn Jones, Mangarero, Santos, Loue Tilipao, and Marco Peter.

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Mitchell returns as Cavs hit 20 3s in win over Pelicans.
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Saipan Tribune Sports

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Saipan
Marathon 2024.

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24 FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Man Amigos power past Peliliu, 14-9

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Man Amigos continued their winning ways as they powered past Peliliu, 14-9, in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association master's league last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Man Amigos didn't get into the groove of things until toward the last innings of the game, and still managed to get the W. Peliliu had a 4-0 lead after their four-run third inning, but Man Amigos turned things around right after.



cut out for them, but failed to round the bases in the fourth.

Peliliu then added three more in the fifth from the top of their lineup—Roy Matagolai, Mark Flores, and John Terlaje—to make it 7-5. But Man Amigos still had more runs up their sleeves as Peter Sablan hit one deep, then another run scored by Sablan to tie up the game, 7-7.

Ben Hocog hit a solo shot for Peliliu to make it 8-7, but



LEIGH GASES

Man Amigos pitcher Jerry Guerrero tosses a pitch during one of their games in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association master's league at the Dandan Softball Field.

Man Amigos caught fire in their at-bat and brought in seven runs, which included a three-run jack by Joey Dela Cruz. Peliliu couldn't recover

in the last inning as they scored just one run, and conceded.

Tokahao 6, Sufa 5

Tokahao slipped past Sufa, 6-5.

Sufa tried to stage a comeback in the last two innings, but came up short by one run, as Tokahao walked it off in the last inning.

Tokahao had a 5-1 lead by the fifth inning, and had just six more outs left to win the game. However, Sufa's Sonny Sablan

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Japan's UNGL visits CNMI again

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The University Network for Global Leadership Development students from Japan made their way to the CNMI again and just in time for the Saipan Marathon.

UNGGL is an organization made up of 20 universities in western Japan with members collaborating to plan and im-

plement training programs in their country and abroad.

A total of 25 students, accompanied by five staff, spent about 10 days from March 1 to March 10 on Saipan to play soccer, visit schools, develop their leadership and related skills, knowledge, and mindsets, and join the Saipan Marathon.

Besides their main sport

JAPAN'S on Page 22



LEIGH GASES

Professor Keiji Hata, right, poses with Shinya Kawakami at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan after their interview with the media regarding the visit of the University Network for Global Leadership Development students from Japan last March 1-10.

Michelob Cup, Pokka Cup meeting on Tuesday, league starts in April

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup's second season is set to start on Friday, April 5, and will also feature a women's and 16U division, called the Pokka Cup.

A meeting is scheduled for 5pm Tuesday, March 19, at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium's conference room, with a final technical meeting on Tuesday, April 2.

There are currently 10 men's teams interested—Brothers, 670 Akkari 1, 670 Akkari 2,



LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Team Marianas' Coby Santos going for a layup during the inaugural Michelob Ultra Cup last year at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Bridge Capital, Ol'Aces, The Game, Lakay, New Chan Ming, Team Marianas, and one team name pending.

For the Pokka Cup, there are currently three women's teams interested, all with pending team names.

The entrance fee per men's team is \$675, and the deadline for fee, rosters, and waiver forms is set for April 2. Registration will be on a "first pay, first served" basis. The maximum is 12 teams and 14 players per team.

The entrance fee per women's team is \$450 and the regular season will consist of a round-robin format, followed

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